

Rapid growth brings record fall in jobless

Output and wages figures confirm buoyant economy

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's fast growing economy produced the largest August fall in unemployment on record. The jobless total has now dropped for 14 consecutive months.

The sharp fall, taken with this week's figures showing manufacturing output up by 6 per cent on a year ago, point to strong conditions in the economy.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "There are now 414,000 fewer unemployed than a year ago - a record 12-month fall."

"Over the period the rate has fallen faster than any other major industrialized country and is now lower than in many

of our European neighbours, like France and Belgium.

"The reductions in unemployment have taken place throughout the country, with the biggest falls in the unemployment rate in the West Midlands and Wales", he added.

The adult unemployment total, seasonally adjusted, fell by 43,300 to 2,832,900 last

month, its lowest since March 1983. The unemployment rate fell to 10.2 per cent, from 10.4 per cent in July.

Officials estimate that if the underlying monthly decline is maintained, unemployment would fall below two million in 1989.

The unadjusted unemployment total fell by 40,651 to 2,865,802, its largest August fall on record. The number of men out of work fell below two million for the first time since 1982.

Although the fall in unemployment over the past 12 months has been in all regions, it has been relatively small in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The Government's Restart programme for the long-term unemployed continues to have an unspecified impact on unemployment, partly by discouraging ineligible people from claiming benefit. Some 180,000 people a month are being interviewed under the Restart programme.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's front bench employment spokesman, said: "We welcome the fall in the unemployment figures largely brought about by the Government's big pre-election spending spree."

At the same time transatlantic flights were delayed because a radar in the north of Scotland suddenly went blank.

The Civil Aviation Authority has faced mounting criticism over inadequate and often out-dated air traffic control equipment.

British Airways was forced to divert four Boeing 747 jets due to land at Heathrow to the continent. Passengers from Australia, Johannesburg and Mauritius were kept waiting in Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels and arrived in London three hours late.

Other flights both inbound and outbound were also delayed by up to an hour.

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Shevardnadze and Shultz extend arms talks



Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, left, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, in buoyant mood in Washington yesterday on their third and final day of talks on a superpower arms control deal and another summit.

Senate blocks Reagan on SDI

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last night extended their final day of talks on arms control. As they did so, the Senate dealt President Reagan a severe blow by voting to stop him pursuing his Strategic Defence Initiative without congressional approval.

The Senate voted for a "narrow" interpretation of the key 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missiles Treaty, which severely restricts SDI development and testing. The Reagan Administration has angrily denounced congressional attempts to limit the President's authority on arms control, saying this undermines the freedom of manoeuvre for US negotiators.

Mr Shevardnadze expressed optimism as he went into the final round of talks yesterday with Mr Shultz. There was a growing feeling that most remaining obstacles to an intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty had been removed.

But the US side remained cautious. Senator Sam Nunn, the influential chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said "thorny questions" remained, and he feared that Moscow was pushing to dismantle the missiles covered by a treaty in too short a time. Any agreement between the two sides would receive "close scrutiny" in the Senate and such an INF treaty could create problems in Europe.

As the two sides drew near to a final compromise, the Pentagon complained it had been kept out of the negotiations, and that senior officials had not been invited to join the US negotiating team.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the hardline Defence Secretary, was last week overruled in his bid to get the President to demand special exceptions and extra conditions for an arms treaty.

Mr Weinberger has been noticeably out of the limelight recently, and it is clear the President is determined to reach agreement with the Soviet side.

The Senate vote yesterday brings to a head the growing disagreement between the Democrat-controlled Congress and the Administration over SDI. The House of Representatives has already voted for such a measure, and a joint amendment will now be drawn up.

BBC looks for new cash boost

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

The BBC is considering radical new ways of raising extra money, including an all-night subscription video service, sponsorship, and a new range of magazines, it was disclosed last night.

Mr Michael Checkland, the corporation's Director-General, addressing the Royal Television Society in Cambridge, said: "We have put away our begging bowl."

The BBC currently receives about £1 billion a year from the licence.

Mr Checkland said the BBC would examine with "energy and imagination" the BBC's assets and infrastructure and suggested the money-raising could include providing subscription services through the night to video cassette recorders.

He hinted that the BBC would consider sponsorship although he admitted it was a trickier area. "We need to re-examine our attitude to take account of what's happening in the field, particularly to encourage our coverage of the performing arts and new educational developments such as the Open College."

Earlier Mr Checkland insisted that the BBC was determined to provide a powerful, comprehensive and authoritative service of journalism. "In all of our journalism we intend, above all, to be fair-minded and to allow all sides a fair say."

Overwhelming Liberal vote for merger talks

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Liberal Assembly yesterday voted overwhelmingly to open talks with the SDP about a merger and the formation of a new party.

Only 21 hands went up against the motion, with 98 in favour and nine abstentions.

Senior Liberals and visitors from the SDP, which has already backed the idea, were euphoric about the result. They predicted that the new party would attract the votes of many more electors than the seven million who supported the Alliance at the General Election in June.

Mr Alec McGivon, the former SDP national agent and now the secretary of the pro-merger group, "appealed" immediately after the vote to Dr David Owen to reconsider his position: "Look at what you're walking away from and think you could be part of it."

But a tangled series of votes in a sometimes emotional debate complicated the task of the two parties' negotiators and undermined the difficulties they will face in getting together. In particular, the new party could be handicapped by a lack of funds.

In the debate there were strong warnings to Liberal leaders not to agree to detailed policy commitments as part of the negotiations on the constitution of the new party. That will disappoint Mr Rob-

ert MacLennan, the SDP party leader, who has repeatedly insisted that Liberal and Social Democratic negotiators must establish a clear policy stance on issues like defence.

Intense pressure is being maintained on the Liberal leaders over this issue. Mr Des Wilson, the retiring party

Alliance election manifesto as a starting point. Miss Margaret Clay, general secretary of the Association of Liberal Councillors, warned the negotiating team: "Many of us will fight and fight if we feel that in any way we are being sold down the river."

Rank and file Liberals revealed considerable distrust of their party leadership. An option calling for the entire negotiating team to be elected by the assembly, rather than having a team composed of the party leader, president and chairman, supplemented by elected members, was only defeated by 571 votes to 527.

Delegates voted for the maximum number of elected representatives permitted by the options before the assembly. Although Mr David Steel has indicated that he did not want to get involved in the detailed day to day talks, the conference voted to refuse to let him have the right to put a nominee on the team in his place, effectively insisting on Mr Steel doing the job himself. But the vote was then ruled out of order on a technicality.

Delegates speeded the negotiations by voting against a ballot of English members to sanction the start of talks, in contrast to the Scottish and Welsh Liberal parties who have decided to hold ballots. But by voting down a commit-

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BP loyalty bonus for small investor

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The new breed of small investor is to be rewarded for buying shares in BP with loyalty bonuses. For every 10 shares investors buy and hold for three years they will be given another one free.

Last night BP shares rose 10p to 374p, which means that even if the shares stay at their present level - every indication is they will keep rising in view of strong US and Japanese demand - substantial bonuses will be earned.

Investors will also be given a discount on the share price - the extent of the discount will be decided on the eve of issuing the sell-off document, expected on October 25.

They will be allowed to pay for their investment in three stages, the first on application, the second in August next year and the third and final payment in April 1989. The proportion of the payments will also be decided just before

the final issue, but it appears that it will be split into three equal parts.

Each potential investor - to date 3.75 million have registered an interest in investing in BP - will be offered bonus shares on the basis of one-for-ten awarded up to a maximum of 150. But investors will not be prevented from applying for a higher number.

They will also be offered the guaranteed opportunity to invest in the company for a minimum outlay of about £250.

The Government's advisers to the sale calculate that no more than 20 per cent of those who intend to buy BP shares plan to sell them and take a quick profit. The remainder, research shows, are small investors who plan to hold on to the shares for long-term investment and take advantage of the proposed loyalty bonus.

How Rambo gunned down British film mogul

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

The short and not so sweet reign of David Puttnam as head of Columbia Pictures, the huge Hollywood film factory, is over. Yesterday, 13 months after he took the job, the British film producer resigned without having shown the film community what he could do.

The abrupt departure of Mr Puttnam, best known as the producer of such award-winning films as *Chariots of Fire*, *The Killing Fields* and *The Mission*, came as no surprise in Hollywood. Three weeks ago, Columbia announced they had merged with a smaller studio, Tri-Star Pictures, and had put Tri-Star's chairman, Victor Kaufman, in charge of the new

company, over Mr Puttnam. Nobody bothered to tell him of the new deal; he read about it in his morning paper.

The inevitable denouement came in New York yesterday, when Columbia announced that Mr Puttnam would resign rather than continue for the remaining two years of his contract. Insiders had predicted clashes between the unorthodox Mr Puttnam and Mr Kaufman, whose main goal was protecting film profits, or "the bottom line" (an "ugly phrase" in Mr Puttnam's view).

When Mr Puttnam was recruited by Coca Cola last year, he said he had been given a clear mandate. He had the final decision on what kind of films to make and only needed his superiors' permission for films budgeted at \$30 million (£18 million) or

more. With Mr Kaufman at the top, however, the picture changed drastically.

Coca Cola said Mr Puttnam's decision to resign followed a meeting yesterday in New York with Mr Kaufman and Coca Cola's two top executives. Mr Puttnam will remain in the job until the merger between Columbia and Tri-Star is completed.

From the very beginning, Hollywood and Mr Puttnam were strange bedfellows. The bearded Englishman, aged 46, was known as a producer of decidedly non-Hollywood products, and when he got the job just a year ago the appointment was greeted with widespread surprise. Serious film-makers, however, hailed his arrival as the beginning of a new and more creative era.

British Coal rejects Acas

Scargill backs down on ban

By Tim Jones

The National Union of Mineworkers last night backed down from a full confrontation with British Coal after the company effectively rejected the services of Acas conciliators and insisted it was determined to uphold its right to manage.

The company told Acas that before any further talks could take place the union would have to call off its action and accept that British Coal had the ultimate right to determine where a dismissed man was employed.

Instead of its planned total ban on overtime, in protest against the company's code of conduct, the union's national executive committee, meeting in Sheffield, said it was ordering its 94,000 members to ban overtime working on all producing coal faces and working developments from midnight on Sunday.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, admitted

that the executive had been divided on how far it should push industrial action.

The limited action, the union said, represented the first stage in its campaign to "bring British Coal back to the negotiating table".

It is a move that will be far less damaging to the industry than the total ban the union had threatened as most overtime is carried out at weekends by safety and maintenance teams preparing mines for the following week's production.

Clearly, the union's 22-member executive was influenced in its decisions by members from areas where there are loss-making pits whose future is threatened.

Before going into the meeting, Mr Eric Clarke, leader of the Scottish miners, said: "Anger is not a luxury we can afford. We are talking about the death knell, or future of

this industry, with a lot of innocent people going to get hurt in this if the coal board take an intransigent attitude - and they have."

Throughout the dispute, the union has been insisting that a minor accused of a disciplinary offence should have the right to be heard by an independent arbiter whose decision would be binding.

British Coal is determined to adhere to the system of industrial tribunals used by the rest of British industry although it has made the concession that if a tribunal decides a man should continue to be employed he will be taken back on but only at a pit of the company's choice.

On a day of high-wire brinkmanship a member of British Coal's board, Mr Malcolm Edwards, commercial director, made it clear exactly how Mr Scargill is regarded within the company headquarters.

Mr Puttnam said he wanted to make quality pictures and not turn out pictures in the *Rambo* mould. Ironically, the *Rambo* films were the biggest moneymakers for Tri-Star, which over the past few years has turned out mostly flops.

Mr Puttnam will leave Hollywood with virtually no legacy. His resignation came on the eve of the opening of the first Puttnam-made picture, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, a romantic thriller directed by Ridley Scott, an Englishman. Three other small films given the Puttnam green light are due to open in the weeks to come.

He has said he would like to return to Britain to teach film at a university. Outsider's epitaph, page 12

Guinness buy

Guinness, the brewing and spirits group, is to pay \$555 million (£337 million) for the wines and spirits interests of Schenley Industries, the US distributor of Guinness's leading spirits brands. Page 21

Drugs claim

Drugs may have very little effect of sporting performance, according to the deputy director of the Institute of Medical Ethics. Page 32

MCC delay

MCC delayed postponing a tour of Bermuda for 24 hours for discussions at Lord's with the president of the Bermuda Cricket Board. Page 34

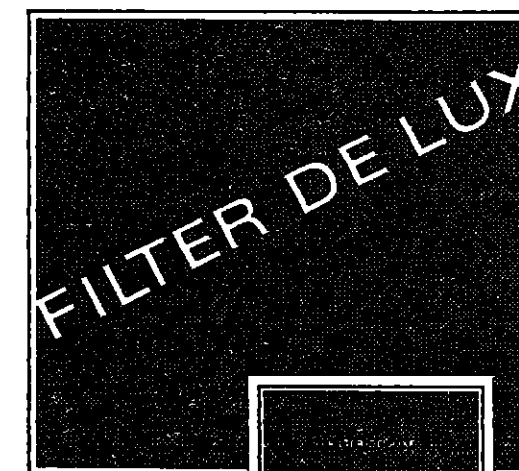
Portfolio

There is £12,000 to be won today in the Times Portfolio Gold competition, as there was no winner yesterday for the second day running. O Portfolio list, page 25.

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The King Size from Dunhill



The wording on the pack tells you that every Dunhill King Size cigarette has a filter carefully chosen to complement the superb quality of its tobacco. This is something you will appreciate only when you enjoy its exceptional smoothness.

Blended to your taste

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government

Warning: SMOKING CAN CAUSE FATAL DISEASES

NEWS SUMMARY

Risk of dementia lower than feared

Elderly people face a much lower risk of suffering from dementia than is believed, according to research carried out at Guy's Hospital in London.

As few as 5 per cent of people over 85 are severely affected by dementia compared with previous estimates of 20 per cent of this age group, according to Dr James Lindsay of the hospital's department of psychiatry.

Dr Lindsay told the international Ageing Well conference in Brighton this week that fewer than 1 per cent of people aged 65-74 suffered from dementia. The rate increased to about 1.5 per cent in those aged 75-84.

"The good news for service providers is that, although there will be enormous growth in the numbers of people who will need help because of dementia, the crisis will not be as overwhelming as was feared", he said.

Pupils on cue

Snooker has been added to the sports timetable at Trinity School, Carlisle.

Once a week sixth-formers visit the local snooker hall. The headmaster, Mr Bryan Dexter, said: "I think the image of snooker is very good and I have no worries about pupils playing the game".

Mr Michael Fox, a senior education officer with Cumbria County Council, said he had not been aware of the snooker sessions, but added: "It sounds better than an afternoon of sweaty hockey sticks".

Test tells Aids type

A technique which can discriminate between infections by the virus which causes Aids in Europe and North America, and similar viruses which are implicated in the African epidemic, has been developed by researchers in the United States and Sweden.

The researchers, who report their findings today in the magazine *Nature*, say there is a need for simple, cheap tests which would simplify screening of large groups of individuals, such as blood donors.

Swiss help search

Scotland Yard detectives, who travelled to Switzerland in the search for property stolen in the £30 million Knightsbridge strongroom raid, expect to recover a substantial part of the proceeds in Zurich.

Mr Peter Gasser, the Zurich district attorney, yesterday ordered two Swiss banks to hand over recent deposits which the detectives believe were smuggled out of Britain. Scotland Yard would not comment until the officers return, but police are believed to be delighted at the success of their request for Swiss judicial help.

Eight people appeared before Horseferry Road magistrates in London last week on charges connected with the robbery. About £5 million has been recovered.

Cancer fighter

Mr Clive Jermain, the cancer victim who received the last rites twice as he lay in a coma, leaves the Royal Marsden Hospital in south London today after a remarkable recovery.

Mr Jermain, aged 22, of south-east London, whose fight against a spinal tumour inspired a £85 million cancer appeal fund and drew a message of support from the Duchess of York, amazed doctors with his will to live.

While bedridden, he wrote the television play, *The Best Years of Your Life*.

Bings missing again

Police throughout Britain have been asked to look for Sir Rudolf Bing, the opera impresario, and his American wife, who have been missing for more than three weeks.

The couple have disappeared before, but never for so long, and yesterday police in Leeds put them on the national missing persons' list. The last person to see them was Mr Chris Barton, their solicitor, who met them at the Edinburgh Festival on August 25. Most of their belongings are still with a well-wisher in Leeds, where they had been staying.

Sir Rudolf, aged 85, who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease, has been declared unfit by a New York court to manage his £600,000 fortune.

Pupils design anniversary postage stamp

Primary school children are being invited to design a stamp to mark 150 years of publicly funded education in England and Wales.

The chosen design, which must be connected with school life, will appear on a commemorative stamp to be issued in 1989. Post Office officials are organizing a competition, also open to pupils in Scotland and Northern Ireland, with £7,500 prize money.

Mr Keith Fisher, general manager of Royal Mail Stamps and Philately, said: "The most exciting thing for entrants must be the prospect of having his or her work carried on millions of letters."

"We will not be looking for artistic genius or accurate draftsmanship, just an attractive design that shows imagination and originality."

Children who live and attend school in the UK who were aged under 11 on August 31 are eligible to enter.

Poll tax demands 'will be plain and simple'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Government yesterday promised that poll tax demands will be clear and easy to understand, although many bills are likely to contain at least 10 separate figures and some 15 or more.

Mr Michael Howard, the local government minister, told a seminar convened by the Association of District Councils that the bills will show how the community charge is calculated. They will also include a government estimate of what a council ought to be spending, to allow tax payers to judge whether their council is overspending.

Tax payers will not get separate demands from different councils and boards which provide services. District and borough councils will collect on behalf of counties, meaning at least two sets of figures in each tax demand.

The Secretary of State for

Europeans urge government backing for space

By Robert Matthews

Europe wants the British Government to back what it regards as the valuable contribution made to the international space programme by British industry, Mr Roy Gibson, the outgoing director of the British National Space Centre (BNSC), said yesterday.

Responding to the report in *The Times* yesterday that Britain may be asked to leave the European Space Agency (ESA) this weekend, Mr Gibson said that there would be considerable dismay within

the European space community if Britain were forced to pull out.

Mr Gibson resigned from the BNSC last month after the Government's refusal to back the centre's £700 million plan to build Britain's role in space. The Government is now undertaking a review of spending on space, the results of which are expected next month.

However, Mr Gibson said that the Prime Minister's undertaking to continue to pay Britain's subscription to the ESA, pending that review, technically ruled out any

move to have Britain removed from the ESA.

"The needle is at zero, neither negative nor positive. We're still in all the programmes, and there is everything to play for", he said.

Mr Gibson will be attending today's meeting in Paris at which Dr Reimar Lust, the ESA's director general, is to express his consternation over the UK's apparent lack of commitment to space.

The UK Industrial Space Committee (UKISC), which represents leading aerospace and electronics companies in

the space business, yesterday said that it viewed "with the deepest concern" yesterday's report of European and American doubts over continuing collaboration with the UK in space.

However, some within the organization believed that it could bring greater pressure to bear on the Government to respond to yesterday's initiative by UKISC members of setting up Space Ventures, a company which will act as a link between the industry, government and financial institutions.

The threat posed to Britain's involvement in the international space station project is also seen as a potentially crucial lever in winning a greater commitment from the Government, as the project is seen as a source of considerable prestige by the Reagan administration, which launched it in 1984.

The government review is being undertaken by the newly formed Advisory Council on Science and Technology, headed by Sir Francis Tomes, chairman of Rolls-Royce, the company which has developed a revolutionary engine for Hotol, a space plane

designed for the next century. Some members of UKISC believe that under Sir Francis's chairmanship, the committee will support the industry's claim that there are considerable commercial benefits to be gained from continued involvement in space.

Dr Garry Hunt, of the Space Society, which represents professional organizations interested in the commercial exploitation of space, said he believed that Britain faced the danger of having to buy the technological spin-offs from other countries' involvement

UDM leader angry over battles with British Coal

By Roland Radd

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which is bitterly opposed to Mr Arthur Scargill, yesterday hit out at British Coal for the "disappointing way" its members had been treated.

In the past few weeks, Sir Robert Haslam, Chairman of British Coal, has frequently quoted UDM spokesmen in his attempt to present the new disciplinary code as "fair and reasonable".

In an article in *The Times*, Sir Robert said that he had been urging the media to give due weight to the view of the UDM but that, sadly, it had been largely ignored.

Mr John Liptrott, the union's general secretary, said yesterday that he was fed up with negotiating wage increases only to watch the coal board hand them over to the National Union of Mineworkers.

"Although we are accused of being a sweetheart union, we have constantly had to battle with British Coal over every issue since our existence."

Although he welcomed Sir Robert's comments that the UDM had not been forgotten in any way, he said that his members were still waiting for British Coal to settle in its favour on a whole range of issues.

Sir Robert has made clear that British Coal will not make any more concessions over its code of conduct. But Mr Liptrott said yesterday that it had no right to talk to the NUM while Mr Scargill, its president, refused to negotiate a conciliation procedure determining pay and conditions.

In a rare outburst against British Coal, Mr Liptrott said that it was time management stopped allowing NUM members to reap the benefits of the UDM without belonging to that union.

In 1986 the UDM negotiated a two-year pay increase worth just under 11 per cent, to be implemented in two

stages, with up to 6.6 per cent for the first year, followed by an increase in line with the Retail Price Index on November 1, 1987, which Mr Liptrott expects to be around 4.4 per cent.

The UDM is particularly aggrieved that British Coal, claiming that it had no alternative because of the Employment Protection Consolidation Act, proceeded to impose the UDM increase on all miners.

The UDM general secretary, who disputes the interpretation of that Act, is now planning to appeal to Sir Robert not to pay NUM members the second part of his union's pay rise.

"My members are very disappointed with the way the coal board has treated them. The NUM condemns us out of hand and British Coal gives them our pay increase. We find that extremely annoying," he said.

Mr David Prendergast, UDM financial officer, said that he had received legal advice from Mr Igor Judge QC, that British Coal was not prohibited from paying employees in two unions different rates.

"Our members feel cheated by the management. If they do not settle our case we will take it to the High Court," he said.

British Coal said: "There are still teething problems over the UDM, but we are doing our utmost to satisfy both unions."

"Our main concern is with the overall workforce. We are surprised by Mr Liptrott's allegations, since this is not what he has said before."

Mr Prendergast said that the UDM was appealing to miners in Yorkshire to "be big enough and brave enough" to join a democratic and tough union.

The UDM leader has told British Coal that, in the event of industrial action, he expects them to be vigilant and rigid in disciplining any miner who threatens or assaults UDM members.

Human touch for dock railway



Captain David Mann, clipper in hand, working on the Docklands Light Railway yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trivelpiece).

Resplendent in his blue uniform, Mr David Mann, a train captain on the new computer-controlled Docklands Light Railway, yesterday ushered passengers on to the 2.23 pm service from Tower Gateway to Island Gardens (Andrew Morgan writes). Despite his title, Mr Mann, aged 23, is employed as a ticket collector and comforting presence for those who quake at hurrying along with no driver in sight.

There have been four train failures and one involving the computer, but the management of the railway, which was launched three weeks ago after various teething troubles, is satisfied with the system's popularity. Between 120,000

and 140,000 passenger journeys are being made each week. Exact figures are difficult to give because up to 80 per cent of passengers use travel cards.

Its popularity means that the frequency of services is to be increased from December from every 10 minutes to seven-and-a-half minutes, using the same nine trains more quickly and efficiently.

Mr Bob Baynam, operations manager, said: "There are still problems to be put right but, compared with system launches I have seen around the world, I am pleased with our system and it is better than expected."

Meanwhile, Captain Mann, a former journalist, performed a trick with his cap

which he has developed to keep the customers amused. "I could never fire of the route. The landscape changes every day with all the docks development. Some days, builders can erect an entire office floor during a single shift", he said.

Local residents have already benefited. Mrs Janet Mack, aged 26, used to spend £4 a day on taxi fares travelling with her baby son to see her invalid parents near Shadwell station. Now, her fare is 40 pence return and much quicker.

The railway is pleased with the public response to its facilities for the disabled and the elderly, with lifts at many stations.

National curriculum

Baker answers his critics

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The proposed national curriculum for schools would not stifle innovation in schools or put teachers in a strait-jacket, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

The proposals would provide a stable background for children, Mr Baker told an invited audience of educationists at Manchester University.

He said children were "in danger of losing any sense at all of a common culture and a common heritage".

Mr Baker added that diversity and pluralism would best thrive against the stable background of a national curriculum which would establish common standards.

In a lecture designed to answer criticisms of the

Government's proposed reforms, Mr Baker said that his purpose was not to put teachers in a strait-jacket or standardize how pupils are taught. "What we seek is unity of purpose, not uniformity of practice."

There was no place in his proposals for government prescribed textbooks, Mr Baker added.

He said he would not be telling schools how to organize their timetables and nor was he trying to suppress project work or integrated studies.

Mr Baker said that he understood fears the national curriculum could prevent innovation. He intended to ensure that schools would be free to adapt their teaching to new opportunities.

He said there had also been criticisms that essential sub-

Four lanes for M25 at Heathrow

By Rodney Cowton

Transport Correspondent

One of the busiest stretches of the M25 motorway is to be rebuilt at a cost of £35 million after being in use for about 10 years.

The volume of traffic using the road has vastly exceeded expectations and it was announced last year that a six-mile stretch between Chertsey and Staines, near Heathrow, was to be widened from three to four lanes.

Yesterday the Department of Transport said that although it was not yet necessary to do routine maintenance work on the road surface, it would become necessary within a few years; so the opportunity was being taken to do both sets of work simultaneously.

Work is expected to start before the end of this year, and last until early 1989.

Although some delays were inevitable, the Department said that it planned to keep three lanes open in both directions most of the time.

Part of the stretch, between junctions 11 and 13, came into use in 1976 and the rest has been open since 1980, although the whole motorway, the world's longest orbital road, was completed only a year ago.

If traffic predictions had been correct, repairs to the section near Heathrow, the busiest of the whole motorway, would not normally have been expected for several years.

It is believed that six firms of civil engineers, Alfred McAlpine, Cementation, Costain, Balfour Beatty, Tarmac and Laing, are competing for the contract.

It is intended that after reconstruction, the road should not require any major maintenance for 20 years. At the end of that time there would be an option to put on an overlay to give it an additional 20 years life.

Other improvements will be carried out, including the widening of slip roads. The widening of this stretch of the motorway will be easier than in other areas because the necessary land has already been acquired and the bridges have been built.

The Automobile Association said the fact that major work had to be done at this stage showed that either the original design criteria were wrong, or were disregarded.

Safety complacency, page 5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE CLEARED V.A.T. AND DUTY PAID FREIGHT ABANDONED ORDER CONFISCATION OF DEPOSITS AND GUARANTEES FOLLOWING CONSIGNEE DEFAULT AND BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS COMPRISE NO LIENS ENCUMBRANCES OR OUTSTANDING CHARGES

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AT THE WAREHOUSE OF TINT, UNIT 1/2, BROADVIEW EST, BEDFORD RD, STANWELL, HEATHROW M4 FROM LONDON AND ANTI-CLOCKWISE ONTO M25 TAKE NEXT EXIT (JUNCTION 14) TAKE SOUTHERN PERIMETER ROAD TO THIRD ROUNDABOUT AND TURN RIGHT, THEN RIGHT AGAIN AT NEXT ROUNDABOUT WAREHOUSE 20U YARDS ON LEFT

AUCTIONEERS: BEAMHEAD LTD.

£1m sonar search for elusive Nessie

By Mark Ellis

A sonar curtain will sweep across Loch Ness to give a computerized picture of life in the murky depths next month in the most ambitious and costly expedition mounted in an attempt to solve one of Britain's greatest mysteries.

Generations have been intrigued and baffled by photographs and reported sightings of the Loch Ness monster and Operation Deepscan plans to use some of the most up-to-date technology in an effort to find out if Nessie exists.

The 23-mile long, mile wide and 720ft deep loch will be subjected to its most intensive scrutiny as an armada of 20 motor boats lying abreast, each equipped with powerful sonar and underwater television equipment, stand 10

days scanning the water.

Not since the heady days of monster-hunting triggered largely by feverish Press activity in 1933 or the trendy quasi-scientific expeditions of the 60s and 70s has so much attention focused on the loch.

The venture, costing more than £1 million, is sponsored by American and British companies as well as the Scottish Highlands and Islands Development Board, and lays claim to serious scientific motives as well as monster hunting.

Mr Adrian Shine, who is leading the expedition and describes himself as an amateur naturalist, said: "I am an investigator and I will be investigating inexplicable sonar contacts which appear to move."

"We promise to resolve

some at least of the loch's mysteries. We will look at colonies of fish and invertebrates which have lived at the bottom of the loch since the last Ice Age."

His own views on the existence of a monster have changed since he became fascinated with the topic as a schoolboy. At first struck by the possibility of something very big living in the loch, he became increasingly sceptical after studying the classic photographs, many later proven as fakes.

In 1987 his attitude changed when a sonar scan gave a signal stronger than that usual for fish of a deep-moving object.

The expedition in the first two weeks of next month will use American computer graph

recorder sonar instruments, which are normally used as fish finders, and print out a rolling picture of the underwater scene detecting fish as close as four inches apart.

It hopes to identify the remains of the boat in which John Cobb was killed when attempting the world water speed record in 1952, and weapons flung into the loch by Jacobite clansmen.

The mystery is unlikely to be resolved conclusively, as the steep sides of the loch causing sonar echoes and other factors prevent every inch of the loch being covered.

Yesterday, William Hill, the bookmakers, were offering 250-1 against conclusive proof being forthcoming within a year.

BBC to launch seven more radio stations

Seven new local radio stations are to be built by the BBC at a cost of £13 million, Mr Michael Checkland, the corporation's Director General, announced last night (Our Media Editor writes).

They will provide coverage for four million new listeners in Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester, Wiltshire, Suffolk, Surrey and Berkshire, Warwickshire and Dorset.

The proposals will complete the BBC's local radio network in England, with a total of 39 stations.

● Lime Grove, home of BBC current affairs programmes, is to close in 1989, a year earlier than planned. Staff involved will move to White City.

Dunhill heir jailed over stolen goods and sale of cocaine

By Ruth Gledhill

The heir to the Dunhill tobacco fortune was jailed yesterday for two years for supplying cocaine and handling stolen tapestries.

Christopher Dunhill, aged 32, had admitted supplying cocaine to a friend. He was found guilty of handling £60,000 worth of stolen tapestries.

Dunhill, an undischarged bankrupt and heir to the company his grandfather founded, now part of the Rothmans Group, was given a custodial sentence in spite of an appeal from his barrister that "prison would be detrimental".

Judge Anthony Babington, at Knightsbridge Crown Court, said that cocaine is a drug "that leads to suffering, degradation and even death to people who use it".

Dunhill, who was made bankrupt in 1981, was caught supplying cocaine to a friend by Drugs Squad officers in July last year. Police who raided the £160,000 flat in Spencer Court, Marble Place, St John's Wood, north-west London, said they saw him hand 2.16 grammes of cocaine in exchange for £640.

The officers also discovered tapestries, which had been stolen from Christie's, the auctioneers, when they searched the flat, and four capsules of MDMA (Methylenedioxymethamphetamine), known to drug users as the aphrodisiac drug ecstasy, which Dunhill

claimed he had bought in a club for £5.

Dunhill, who was divorced from Miss Victoria Burgoyne, the actress, in 1981, at first denied that he was supplying the drugs. He later admitted: "Okay, but he is a mate. We were going out to night club." He then confessed to officers that he was a regular drug user with a "half to a couple of grammes a week habit".

He denied a charge of dishonestly handling the tapestries and said he was looking after them "as security" for a friend to whom he had lent £5,000. He was found guilty by the jury.

Dunhill, who has received treatment for his addiction to a drugs rehabilitation centre, was sentenced to 18 months in jail for supplying cocaine and six months to run consecutively for dishonestly handling the tapestries. He received a further three-month sentence, to run



Dunhill yesterday before being sent to jail.

concurrently, for possessing the drug MDMA.

Mr Philip Hackett, for Dunhill, described him as a financial incompetent. "It is plain that Mr Dunhill had a drugs problem. This was a picture of a steady decline over a period of two to three years before this offence happened. But he has not got a long history of drug abuse and has prospects to change his life, unlike many other drug users."

Throughout the seven-day trial, Dunhill presented a sober face to the court, despite the playboy image he has cultivated.

The prison sentence marks a new rock bottom for the man who, after leaving Downside Public School, near Bath in Avon, went on to attract the attention of the media with a series of unsuccessful business ventures.

In the most notorious, Alfred Dunhill sued him in 1977 after he used the Dunhill name on sunglasses marketed through a Swiss company. The tobacco company was awarded costs and damages but said later it would not pursue the claim.

In the same year, Dunhill staged an open-air show at Bray in Berkshire with a guest list intended to attract up to 50,000 people. About 1,500 people turned up and creditors claimed they were owed £30,000.

Child abuse inquiry

Doctor called incompetent

By Peter Davenport

A consultant paediatrician in the Cleveland sexual abuse crisis was called incompetent and misguided by a police surgeon, a judicial inquiry heard yesterday.

Dr Marietta Higgs was criticized by Dr Alistair Irvine at a heated meeting of a working party of the area's Joint Child Abuse Committee, held to resolve the dispute which had arisen about the role of police surgeons in cases.

The inquiry was also told by Mr Simon Hawksworth, QC, for the parents, about the case of a child identified as W. It had been diagnosed by Dr Higgs as having been sexually abused and was admitted to hospital.

The child was examined again by Dr Higgs who said there had been further abuse while in hospital. The child was then put into foster care, examined again by the doctor who claimed that there was once again evidence of abuse.

Mr Hawksworth said that, at a time when the diagnostic dispute had become well known, social workers should have weighed the evidence "in accordance with probability and common sense".

In documents submitted to the twentieth day of the inquiry under Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss, the extent of the

animosity between two of the most important agencies in handling the investigation was detailed.

Dr Irvine, senior police surgeon for Cleveland, was alleged to have made the personal attacks on Dr Higgs and described her mentors, Dr Jane Wynne and Dr Christopher Hobbs, the co-authors of a medical paper on the con-

The inquiry at Middlesbrough Town Hall will cost between £3 million and £4 million and take 17 weeks to complete instead of the four to six expected, according to estimates in the latest issue of *Law Magazine*.

The magazine says lawyers are blaming the Government for rushing ahead with the inquiry instead of allowing all parties to prepare their views more concisely.

troversial diagnostic technique used by the Middlesbrough consultant, as "equally misguided".

Further documents alleged that Mrs Sue Richardson, child abuse consultant, had received an "intimidatory" telephone call from a detective inspector after difficulties at a child abuse case conference.

At the height of the crisis the chief constable of Cleveland issued a directive to his force saying that diagnoses by Dr Higgs had to be treated with "considerable caution". There were counter claims by social workers that the police had been slow to investigate and had dropped some cases.

Yesterday Mr Robert Bartfield, for the police, denied the allegations.

Mr John Hughes, child care adviser, was questioned about a memo of May 29, that he had compiled with Mrs Richardson as guidance for social workers on how to operate after relations with the police had broken down.

One section had dealt with the problem of repeat examinations of young children. It said where a statement was available from a clinician it was not necessary for a police surgeon to re-examine a child and that any test for forensic science evidence should be arranged with the consultant paediatrician.

Mr Hughes said that his department was anxious to ensure that children were not subject to repeated medical examinations which could be stressful.

The inquiry continues today.

Hammer attack boy is guilty

Two schoolboys who attacked a deputy headmaster with a hammer were yesterday remanded in custody pending social inquiry reports.

A pupil aged 15, who denied kicking Mr Christopher Gitsham, aged 55, as he tried to pull the hammer from his hand, was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

A judge at Liverpool Crown Court adjourned sentencing him and another boy, aged 14, who admitted the offence, until October 9.

The court had heard how the boys hatched a scheme at Priory Community Comprehensive in Liverpool to lure the teacher to the toilets. The older boy deliberately made himself vomit and the other was to summon help from Mr Gitsham.

When he found the boy being sick he went to fetch him a peppermint. When Mr Gitsham returned and turned his back the boys attacked him.

After the assault, on March 10, Mr Gitsham had a two-hour operation. He is still not back at work.

Police treat young 'more brusquely'

By Kerry Gill

Police relations with the public should be improved, particularly among young people who believe they are treated more brusquely and discourteously than other age groups, a Scottish Office report suggested yesterday.

That is one of the conclusions contained in the report, *Young People and the Criminal Justice System*.

Compiled by researchers at Stirling University, it was based on more than 400 interviews with young people aged between 16 and 21 in central Scotland.

Most had had some form of contact with the police whether as offenders, witnesses or victims. More than half said they thought relations with the police were extremely poor.

Although most conceded that there was a need for the police and that they generally did a good job, three out of five said relations with the police were bad.

Most of the young people, while accepting the need for

prisons, believed community service orders and probation were good forms of punishment, but did not support the short, sharp shock policy.

The authors of the report, Dr Russell Dobash, Dr Rebecca Dobash and Mr Scott Ballantyne, emphasized the need for young people to be educated on the criminal justice system and urge more community work by the police.

Another report, *The Public and the Police in Scotland*, carried out by the Scottish Office Central Research Unit, shows that most people in Scotland feel the police do a fairly good job.

However, further improvements in police and public relations are needed, particularly in letting people know more about police work, the study says.

The survey also found that while one in four had suffered a household crime, only 6 per cent bothered to seek advice on crime prevention. Three out of 10 found the police "less than polite".

Criticism of blood service rejected

The medical director of Scotland's blood transfusion service has been criticized by other experts for his description last week of the service in England and Wales as "fragmented and disorganized shambles". (Our Science Correspondent writes).

The comments by Dr John Cash, published in the *British Medical Journal*, could lead to a loss of confidence in the service by donors, patients and

hospital staff, they said.

The chairman of a Department of Health working party investigating the service, Dr Edmund Harris, says donated blood in Britain is as safe as supplies anywhere in the world.

"It is important to reassure all voluntary donors that their gift is always used for the maximum benefit of patients."

"Equally, patients can be reassured that blood is always

available for transfusion when it is clinically necessary, contrary to what Dr Cash says."

Dr Harold Gunson, director of the North Western Regional Transfusion Service in Manchester, says: "There may be organizational shortcomings in the service that lead to operational difficulties from time to time, but these are being addressed and I am confident that a solution will be found."

Stepping out for a mass market

By Liz Smith
Fashion Editor

The new ready-to-wear line to revive the House of Hartnell, which was previewed yesterday: Culottes and soft jacket in navy and white spotted silk (left); and a polka dotted mini mac (right) for spring/summer 1988 (Photograph: Chris Harris).

The patrician house of Hartnell, couturier to the Queen, made its pitch yesterday for the survival of its fashion name with a parade style aimed more at the mass market than its customary carriage trade.

The first ready-to-wear line produced under the new management of Manny Silverman, who stepped in less than two months ago to save the house, revitalizes the famous label with some modern thinking but without any intimidating innovations.

For all its inspiration supposedly from the rivers of Scott Fitzgerald, it is a safe, but bravely stylish collection aimed at customers of off-the-peg fashion in big stores.

The designer charged with balancing tradition with an up-to-date line is Ann Shore, aged 30, a graduate of the Royal College of Art.

Her commercial fashion grounding at the cutting tables in Bow, east London, of the highly successful Stephen Marks and Nicole Farhi team, and recently as part of the design consultancy headed by Anne Tyrrell, shows in the gentle lines of her soft-shouldered suits for Hartnell with their neat little skirts.

Fingerlength blazers and smoking jackets are belted over mid-calf kuffe pleated skirts.

All the more lavish confections for the couture customer, those jewel-encrusted dresses worn by the Queen on State occasions and the sugary chiffons so closely identified with the Queen Mother, are being created by different designers.

"Running Hartnell is a privilege and a great pleasure," Manny Silverman says with enough enthusiasm to have you believe that being handed a house riddled with debts and problems is nothing but fun.

He has certainly succeeded in stopping the rot in a matter of weeks, and morale is high.

V&A to reinstate Friday opening

By Lynda Mordin
Arts Correspondent

The Victoria and Albert Museum, which has kept its doors closed on Fridays since 1977, when staff cuts were imposed by the then Labour government, is returning to opening seven days a week.

Other national arts institutions in London open seven days a week and the V&A's move 10 years ago was strongly opposed.

Lord Carrington, the chairman of the trustees, yesterday attributed the return, starting November 6, to the success of the V&A's voluntary admission fee scheme.

He said: "We promised to use the money raised from our visitors to give them a better service and this is what we have done."

The museum houses the nation's leading collections of fine and decorative arts. Reinstating the extra day will cost £200,000 a year in staff wages and services.

The voluntary admission fee scheme, which suggests a £2 "donation", was introduced towards the end of 1985.

It raised £400,000 in its first year. The amount for the second year is expected to be more than £500,000 and indications are that the trustees have no plans to drop voluntary charges at the end of the two-year trial.

The price paid for the extra income was a large drop in the number of visitors - down 40 per cent down in the first year.

Sir Roy Strong, leaving at the end of the year after 13 years as director of the V&A, said last night: "To be forced to shut one day a week in 1977 was upsetting. I am truly grateful to all our visitors whose contributions have made reopening possible."

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HALIFAX
THE WORLD'S No 1

Liberals vote overwhelmingly for merger

The Liberal Assembly at Harrogate voted overwhelmingly last night for the motion which paves the way for merger negotiations with the Social Democratic Party. The motion was carried by 998 votes to 21 with nine abstaining.

Earlier, the assembly had rejected the provision that members of the Liberal Party in England should be consulted in an initial ballot, before negotiations.

Moving the motion, Mr Tim Clement-Jones, chairman of the Liberal Party, said that the message from the forum on Tuesday had been to get on with the negotiations and start the process of forming a new party.

"This is about creating a new force, building on the best traditions and principles and

● We are not talking about merger or takeover ●

constitutional features of both parties. That was why the resolution uses the words 'new party'.

"We are not talking about merger or takeover. In neither party are individual party members assets to be bought or sold."

They would have to compromise in certain areas but that was not foreign to Liberals. They were not narrow partisans.

The policy process must be firmly in the hands of members of the new party through proper representative policy committees and sovereign assemblies.

They must be a properly financed party. It had become clear that a system based on voluntary affiliation by constituency was not an adequate way of financing any party.

In addition to the relationship between constituency parties and their members the national parties in the new structure must have the ability to contact their members. It does not necessarily mean central collection of membership subscriptions.

There must be a proper process for the recognition and representation of groups of members with a common interest. Their autonomy must be enshrined in the constitution of the new party.

It was vital that the election of the leader was by every individual member.

Sir Russell Johnston, MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, said that he had joined the Scottish Liberal Party 33 years ago. This was the strangest conference, neither a wake nor a stag night.

"And yet we are about to dissolve ourselves after a century of Liberalism and create a new party. There should surely be some grief with the joy" (applause).

The assembly all seemed

likely to be flattened out into mechanistic dialogue about structures and systems.

He found it emotional, very difficult for him, before everything else, he was a Liberal from the heart (prolonged applause).

"It has moved and inspired and kept us going all these years from Lloyd George to Jo Grimmond, who were of the heart, and their flooding force compelled the loyalty of thousands and lighted their steps along the dark, wet streets which had to be canvassed because that was the way to build a better world. That driven loyalty must not be lost" (applause).

It was simplistic to say with the fine intellectual Observer article detachment of some that parties were only frames for ideas. Parties became families and commanded the kind of loyalty which alone in the end could produce the collective force to produce change.

He did not think there was much new under heaven. They were all talking about everything being new. "You do not change the taste of the whisky by changing the shape of the bottle" (applause).

In recent times, all the new ideas had been from the left and right and most of them had been wrong.

He had found an adherence to ideas that were old and tested and strong. How to reconcile free men and women without force: that was the aim of the Liberal, dispassionate and compassionate.

All of his experience of working with the SDP told him that it could be done (applause).

"If we lose it, we lose not only everything we have worked for, so hard and so long and in the face of so much criticism. We also betray everything that all those people have worked so hard for and so long."

Mr Tony Greaves, Pendle, said that the motion was not perfect but it was one that they could negotiate on with their SDP friends, and he thought that they could end up with a policy which would be, in his definition, a Liberal party.

The Alliance, as they knew it, was over. They had to ask themselves and the SDP "mergers" if they wanted a party run by a small clique in London or one which belonged to its members and activists.

There were cheers when he said "I say the second".

Did they want a party in which they would be expected to follow the leaders without thinking for themselves or a party based on the Liberal principles of involvement, duties and responsibilities imposed by citizenship and membership, which resulted from free individuals debating and acting together.

Opening debate on Part 3, Mr Martin Thomas, Wrexham, said: "With our Social Democratic friends we will fashion a new political movement based upon the deep, radical and



Mrs Claire Brooks and Sir Russell Johnston, worried about the fate of the Liberal Party they have loved.

Liberal traditions of our nation, Wales." He said that the new party should be open to Welsh nationalists.

Mrs Claire Brooks, Skipton, said that the Liberal Party and Liberalism stood for the rights of individuals and the respect of individual consciences. She warned delegates: "Don't let any policy pact be a part of the founding of this new party because you will find that pact will be used to remove people from possible candidacy because of their particular views."

She asked delegates to pass the part three amendments to support a locally administered

● There should surely be some grief with the joy ●

membership scheme and to keep the sole powers of constitutional amendment with the assemblies.

She had listened to all the euphoria about the merger. You will be concerned when our own dear leader can say to the SDP that he likes their constitution better than ours. Well, I do not... (cheers)...

Mr Des Wilson, the party president, said: "I am concerned about the distinction that we have to make in the next few weeks over principles and policy, the policies that change

preserve power in the hands of an élite."

Where had their own dear leader and the SDP got the strange idea that anyone could come to this party assembly? "I am sick and tired of hearing this misconception. And I am sick and tired of hearing my SDP friends continually telling us about the unruly, rebellious, difficult, irresponsible Liberal Party Assembly" (renewed cheers).

She begged party members to be cautious and to watch what the negotiators were doing because they might not like what came out of the talks.

She drew laughter and cheers when she declared: "I am in the Liberal Party and I will be in a Liberal party even if I am the only person in it."

She did not think that she could cast a vote to destroy this party that she had been in since she was a child and which five generations of her family had been in.

"I hope at the end that it will be a Liberal party and that I can join it, too."

Mr Des Wilson, the party president, said: "I am concerned about the distinction that we have to make in the next few weeks over principles and policy, the policies that change

according to the circumstances of the party" (cheers).

What was the case for declaring a broad policy position from the start? "We are told the electorate will demand it. Well, the electorate will get it in good time."

Liberals had been working with the SDP for two years.

● I am sick of hearing about unruly Liberals ●

developing policies. "A hell of a lot of them will stand up to examination for years. We fought on them three or four months ago and they cannot all be irrelevant now."

He suggested as a marker for the negotiations that the 1987 Alliance election programme should form the starting point for the policy of the new party.

Mr David Morris, Tiverton, moved the amendment to base the new party on a locally administered membership scheme. The first priority and concern must be to get a wide mass membership. Those who identified with them should be able to join without regard for income, cheque books, and filing-in of forms.

Being asked to join by sending a form to central London would

tell them much about the new party.

"We can have all the eloquent preambles to the constitution and all the finely tuned policies, charismatic leaders and a wonderful name, but at the end of the day, it is the members who give character and sustain your party."

Mr Gordon Lishman, Pendle, moved an amendment to give the assembly sole powers to amend the constitution. He said that no single principle was more important to Liberals than the principle that a decision should be based on open debate and argument (applause). If they argued against that, they should look around and feel the atmosphere of the debate.

The amendment sought to take that principle into the new constitution.

"Why are we assuming that negotiators will get it right first time? There is no basis for thinking that. Why then should we want a procedure such as that which the SDP has at present, which makes changing the constitution unbelievably difficult and cumbersome?"

The first amendment was carried.

The provision for national membership lists based on a locally administered membership scheme was carried.

The second amendment was carried.

The provision for a constituency basis of association was carried on a separate vote which followed a request during the debate.

On the proposal for an initial ballot of the English membership, Mrs Anne Hellewell, Barnsley Central and North East Leeds, said that the provision should be retained.

It was important that Social Democrats and Liberals should all be seen as having had the opportunity to vote on the initial procedure.

Lord Bonham-Carter spoke against such a ballot. The wishes of members could be clearly expressed in January.

It was important that the final ballot of both parties should be on the same day, with the same questions, be conducted by the Electoral Reform Society and the results be announced simultaneously.

The provision for an initial ballot was rejected.

The provision that the special assembly to discuss the result of negotiations should meet at or about the end of January 1988 was also rejected.

At the start of debate on Part 5, concerning the composition of the negotiating team, delegates were faced with two options.

The first, which they agreed to, stated that representatives of the Liberal parties' team should include the president, the chairman, the leader (for his nominee), and five or eight persons elected by the assembly.

The second would have meant that eight or eleven persons elected by the assembly would make up their representatives.

The conference decided on the first option by 571 votes to 527. Delegates then voted that the team should include eight persons elected by the assembly.

The vote will take place today.

Speaking on the amended motion, Mr Viv Bingham, Hazel Grove, said: "I intend to join that new party and to help to make it a worthy successor to the Liberal Party in terms of its passionate practicality."

● I hope it will be a Liberal party that I can join ●

Mr Humphrey Devereux, Wansbeck, opposing, said: "This assembly this week has been driven by the same sort of force which drove the Gadarene swine."

Miss Margaret Clay, Leeds East, told delegates: "Many of us will fight and fight if we feel in any way that we have been sold down the river and that Liberal principles are being sacrificed."

Delegates then carried the amended motion by 998 votes to 21. There were nine abstentions.

The result was greeted with loud applause.

Choice of team brings dispute

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

The competing factions within the Liberal Party will today engage in a trial of strength as elections are held to determine the composition of the 11-strong team charged with negotiating a merger with the SDP.

Last night as nominations closed, leading activists among the loose association of groups on the left of the party were seeking to put together an agreed slate of candidates and canvassing support for them.

They were anxious that the team should not be dominated by the party hierarchy in the shape of the so-called "Baker Street gang" made up of Mr Alan Watson, the former party president, and Mr Richard Holme, a close aide of Mr David Steel.

Earlier in the day, the left, embracing influential interest groups such as the Association of Liberal Councillors, Liberal CND, the Young Liberals and racial ginger groups such as Link, were fighting to throw their weight behind a ticket headed by Mr Michael Meadowcroft, the former Liberal MP, a critic of Mr Steel's leadership.

Other prominent names being floated by the party's radical wing, which has been in a subdued mood this week in Harrogate, included Mr Andrew Stunell, an ALC officer, Mr Des Wilson, the outgoing president, Mr William Wallace, a former adviser to the party, Mr Archie Kirkwood, an MP, and Mr Roger Hayes of Liberator. The ALC was also planning to back Ms Janice Lennon, leader of the Alliance group on Bedfordshire County Council.

Meanwhile, the right, led by the Liberal Parliamentary Association, was planning to muster its forces behind Mr David Hughes, a Liberal vice-chairman as well as Mr Holme and Mr Watson.

But all early calculations were purely provisional because the assembly had not then decided on the exact size of the team or whether it should also include ex officio members.

Delegates voted to give Mr Adrian Slade, the president, Mr Tim Clement-Jones, the chairman, and Mr Steel, or his nominee, an automatic seat at the negotiating table.

Delegates voted to give Mr

Adrian Slade, the president, Mr Tim Clement-Jones, the chairman, and Mr Steel, or his nominee, an automatic seat at the negotiating table.

Delegates voted to give Mr

Narrow majority for new industrial policy

A motion calling for a positive industrial policy to be developed by Government in partnership with industry, including trade unions, was carried by only 25 votes after it had been attacked for various shortcomings.

The motion, carried by 437 votes to 412, called for a new industrial strategy council, for companies to declare the amount spent on research and development, a training incentive scheme, regional development agencies, an expanded Office of Fair Trading, co-ordination of the work of government external agencies and development of a positive European policy by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Richard Holmes, Cheltenham, moved the motion and said that industrial output had recovered only to the 1979 level. Britain was still uncompetitive in world markets.

Despite recent statistics, some people, including the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, believed there was

no need for any kind of industrial policy, but the Confederation of British Industry last night called for an industrial policy.

The basic role of government in industrial policy was to foster and stimulate competition because it helped the consumer.

Mr Trevor Jones, West Dorset, said that people voted, not for aims and objectives alone, but for policies.

"This mishmash is not the basis for a new party for the 1990s... The central message of the Liberal Party and any new party must be that we believe in an entrepreneurial culture and that people by their own energies, skill and enthusiasm can change the world and the economic prospects of Britain, just as much as the political complexion of their council."

Mr Roland Morgan, Somerset, complained that the motion ignored scientists, designers, technicians and engineers. Instead of demonstrating that the party understood industrial problems, it showed them how

little those problems were understood.

Lord Ezra said that the time had come to reshape industrial policy. Industrial infrastructure, the Government's own statistics, needed substantial refurbishment. He supported the motion.

Miss Jane Brothly, Young Liberals and party council, said that the motion represented a policy slightly better than that advanced by the Tories, but she was against the whole ethos. It was backward-looking. The motion contained no commitment to green policies.

Mr Susan Thomas, Mole Valley, said that Government-funded marketing reports, called for by the motion, were pretty useless.

Mr Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro, said that they needed to concentrate on a policy which helped local industry to develop and create permanent local jobs, not one of making large grants to bring multinational or London-based companies into the regions.

EQUAL ACCESS

Priority urged for disabled

Delegates unanimously carried a motion urging that prime consideration should be given, in the talks on forming a new party, to the rights and opportunities of disabled people.

The motion said that these rights should include equal access to leisure, housing, income, health, education, transport and the political process. It also called for legislation to make illegal discrimination against people with disabilities.

Mr Iain Brodie-Brown, chairman of the commission on disabled people, moved the motion, saying that too many people were offered to these people. All they wanted were the same rights as others.

Miss Rosie Cooper, Liverpool, said that examinations for interpreters for the deaf might have to be because Government funding was insufficient.

Mrs Janet Skipworth, Harrow West, told delegates that she was in a wheelchair

she was still a person in her own right and entitled to full civil liberties.

Mr Archie Kirkwood, MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, and Commons spokesman on the social services, said that two thirds of people who suffered disabilities were living on the margins of poverty. That must be redressed quickly. The only test for helping the disabled should be the extent of their disability in terms of income that they could expect from the state.

Mrs Jill Allen-King, Southend West, told delegates that because she was blind people did not talk directly to her. "Some even try to talk to my guide dog." People even offered chocolates to the dog instead of to her.

Mr Martin Coleman, Hertford, said that disabled people did not want to be treated in a patronising or emotional manner.

THE GUN LAWS

Society that 'glorifies killing' is condemned

A delegate showed the conference a model Mauser pistol during an emergency debate on the Hungerford killings, which ended with the acceptance of a resolution calling for implementation of the Government pledge to review gun law and for an assessment of the risks involved in allowing ammunition and semi-automatic rifles to be stored in a private home.

Mr David Rendell, Editor of *Liberal News*, displayed the toy pistol, which he had bought in Harrogate yesterday and which had taken 30 minutes to get through security into the hall.

"It is marked 'not suitable for children under five years of age' (laughter) but I do not think it is suitable for a child of any age (applause). It epitomizes a society which glorifies killing."

Mr David Rendell, candidate for Newbury, Berkshire, during the election, moved the motion. He said that the tragedy at Hungerford had struck a chord

in the hearts of men and women of all parties and none through out the country.

"For the sake of the whole country, as well as particularly for the sake of the people of Hungerford, we must see if we cannot find some lesson to be learnt from this tragedy, some spark of good springing from the evil embers of Michael Ryan's burnt-out home."

He had been struck in talking to Berkshire people in recent weeks, by how often people had said to him: "Why was he allowed to keep all that ammunition at home and why did he need a semi-automatic rifle?"

Those factors had struck the average person as being, if not the cause of the tragedy, at least an important factor in its sheer scale. The last they could do, to reassure not only the people of Hungerford, but also the rest of the citizens, that the lessons would be learnt and to urge the Government to include those

obviously crucial aspects in their review of gun law.

Mr Nicholas Winch, Bristol, East, moved that the motion should be referred back because it was not an adequate response to the Hungerford tragedy.

It was too easy to get a gun licence. To get a shotgun licence he did not need to give a reason, nor to say where he would keep it.

Mr Sample opposed reference back. He said that his 95-year-old grandmother, aunt, uncles and cousins lived in Hungerford, and his mother in Saverneke Forest.

He had that day bought a copy of a magazine, *Mr Gunner*, which showed a teenager with a rifle and a Rambo-style head band, wearing a combat jacket.

"It is a disgrace, a few weeks after the killing that a magazine which glorifies this sort of character should be on sale."

Reference back of the motion was rejected and it was carried.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

the proceedings than that. The dominant mood has been a determination to resist the making of mischief - and a good deal more mischief could have been made over Mr Robert MacLennan's proper insistence as the new SDP leader that there should be a statement on the policy stance of a merged party.

The question of policy stance is still the most critical point. But attention was directed yesterday at the other principal difficulty in forming a new party: what its structure should be. One of the main

SDP anxieties has been that the Liberals have an anarchic organization with no adequate procedures for making policy.

Despite some of the speeches yesterday, I believe that there is widespread agreement in principle that a new party would need a more coherent structure than the Liberals have now. But there are two problems which will need to be overcome in putting this principle into practice.

It will be necessary to resolve the tension between the tradition of decentralization in the Liberal Party and the more centralized preferences of the Social Democrats.

Just as Labour has for years been tormented by the ghost of Ramsay MacDonald, so a merged party may now suffer from a fear of David Owen's shadow. In each case a leader who is believed to have taken the wrong course has provoked a fear of leadership itself.

The negotiating paper on a new party's constitution which the Liberals adopted yesterday should present no insuperable difficulties in the negotiations with the SDP. But it is seriously inadequate.

It will not be easy to devise a satisfactory federal structure

to accommodate the wishes of the Scots and the Welsh, and conceivably the English regions. More seriously, it is not clear how policy would be made in the United Kingdom party.

The section on representative assemblies has been drafted so as to avoid anything so dangerous as too precise a meaning. But there seems to be some risk of making the national assembly the supreme and unchallenged policy-making body.

There is no reference to the role of the parliamentary party nor to the creation of a policy committee. Nothing is said about drawing up the election manifesto.

The experience of the Labour Party should point to the danger of giving too much power to the party conference. Criticism is usually concentrated on the abuse of the block vote, but not even a democratically elected assembly is well equipped to exercise untrammelled authority.

Yet while it is necessary to seek organizational points, the deeper task is to give a new party a sense of direction. That will be the challenge for Mr David Steel when he addresses the conference today.

Ministers accused over Gulf

Britain had first declined to send minesweepers to the Gulf and had then sent them alone, refusing to be involved in a collective effort, Mr Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, told the conference.

Proposing an emergency motion, he criticized the Government's response to the crisis in the Gulf as a United Nations basis.

Protection work could have involved a UN formation while minesweeping was done under a UN flag instead of the "provocative" re-flagging by the United States.

Miss Janice Turner, of the Association of Liberal Trade Unionists, accused Britain of responsibility for many deaths in the Gulf war. It had turned a blind eye to arms dealing.

She was applauded after holding aloft such an arms contract and describing it as representing "Mrs Thatcher's blood money".

The motion, which also called on the Government to investigate reports of illegal arms sales to both sides in the war, was carried.

THE MOTION

Liberals make choice

The final motion, "Creating a Democratic Alternative", after amendment, which was passed by 998 votes to 21 with 9 abstentions, was:

Part 1
This assembly, while reaffirming the preamble to the Liberal Party constitution, recognizes the need for a new political party founded upon the commitment to individual freedom, social and economic justice, the elimination of poverty, internationalism and responsible stewardship of the Earth and its resources (which commitment is the basis of the values and principles set forth in both the preamble to the Liberal Party's constitution and the Social Democratic Party's statement of principles); which is committed to enable people in communities to take and use power and which will be the political expression of a broadly based movement of constitutional, economic and social reform.

Part 2
To this end it resolves to set its hand, together with the SDP, to the creation of a new political party as the successor to the Liberal Party and the SDP.

Part 3
The new party must be open, democratic and participatory,

with a statement of principles and the following key constitutional features:

1. one member, one vote;
2. national membership lists based on a locally administered membership scheme;
3. a leader elected by all members;
4. a federal structure with a UK federal level of institutions which is distinct from the institutions of the parties in the nations and regions of Britain;

5. representative assemblies which will be the sovereign part of a democratic and accountable process of policy formulation and which will determine policy at the appropriate level of the federal party and which shall have sole powers to amend the constitution;

6. a constituency basis of association;
7. the right of members having a common interest to organize in autonomous groups, with defined procedures for recognition and representation within the party.

Part 4
This assembly believes that the formation of the new party should involve the fullest possible consultation at all levels with and between recognized

bodies, units and individual members of the Liberal parties and the SDP. In relation to the Liberal Party in England, this process should include a process of taking representations throughout the country; and interim consultations with the council in November. It resolves to hold a special assembly of the Liberal Party and thereafter a ballot of all members.

Part 5
This assembly accordingly instructs the national executive to give effect to this resolution, and in particular to establish, in consultation with the Scottish and Welsh Liberal parties, a team to participate with the SDP in the process leading to the founding of the new political party. The representatives of the Liberal parties shall be:

a. the president of the party; b. the chair of the party; c. the leader of the party (or his nominee); d. eight persons elected by this assembly.

Together with representatives of each of the Scottish and Welsh Liberal parties selected by that party; and supported by a secretary and a legal adviser; and calls upon all Liberals to participate fully in this historic process.

Government 'guilty of complacency' over road deaths

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association has criticized a government report on road safety and accused the Secretary of State for Transport of complacency over dangerous driving.

The criticisms, published in the *British Medical Journal* today, have been prompted by the two recent motorway accidents in which 12 people were killed and 19 seriously injured.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the BMA, says both accidents were the result of human error. "Yet the refusal to deal adequately with a direct approach to influencing human error is one of the worst failings of a recently published government report," he says.

Human error is the prime factor in 70 per cent of accidents and a contributory factor in all but 5 per cent,

according to Dr Havard, but Britain has failed to heed World Health Organization advice on research into the causes of traffic accidents.

"The report does not even mention random breath tests which have been shown to be effective in several countries, nor does it discuss enforcing speed limits."

Dr Havard says in a leading article that the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Paul Channon, is "complacent" in his foreword to the report, *Road Safety: The Next Steps*.

The report, by an inter-departmental working group, took three years to produce, and is the first full review by government for more than ten years on road safety.

Mr Channon had pointed out that Britain's accident rate compared well with those of other European countries, and was falling. But Dr Havard

says: "He does not mention that among five to nine-year-old pedestrians, Britain has a higher mortality than almost any other country in the European Community and that among 10 to 14-year-olds it is twice the community average."

"Neither the Secretary of State nor the working group seems to want to upset the motorist by interfering with dangerous habits."

The Department of Transport denied the charge of complacency yesterday.

"More research is being carried out into driver behaviour, and while our standards of road safety are already high we seek continually to improve them," the department said.

Motorcyclists should have to pass a car driving test before being allowed to ride their machines, a national symposium on road safety was told yesterday (Ian Smith writes).

Ideally, motor cycles should be banned from the roads altogether, bringing a dramatic reduction in road accidents, a delegate told the symposium at the University of Salford.

Mr Ken Huddart, formerly chief traffic engineer for Greater London Council, now a traffic engineering consultant, said that if motor cyclists were forced to use cars instead, there would be 3,000 fewer accidents involving pedestrians a year.

A ban would provoke howls of protest, Mr Huddart said. But if motor cyclists were allowed to use the roads, they should be forced to pass a car driving test first.

Falling standards among London police drivers have been blamed for a growing number of deaths, accidents and complaints of bad driving.

Commander Tony Speed says that if civilian motorists drove as badly, they would be heavily fined.

Mr Speed, who is responsible for specialist training, is urging drivers and supervisors to maintain standards set during training at the Hendon police driving school.

"Considerable publicity has been given to accidents involving police cars in recent months," he says in *The Job*, the national police newspaper. His comments come after a

letter to the paper from a traffic division officer, a member of an accident patrol unit, who complained of falling police driving standards.

PC Barry Sharkey, himself a police driver, claims that some colleagues are breaking the law and setting a bad example to private motorists.

His letter said: "To see police drivers braking late for hazards, giving ambiguous signals, adopting speeds which cannot be justified under any circumstances and generally driving to standards which would leave Mr Average Motorist with a substantial fine, makes me wonder where we are going wrong."

Zeebrugge inquest

Mother died 3 months later

A mother of three saved from the capsized ferry Herald of Free Enterprise died in hospital, an inquest was told yesterday.

Miss Dolvis Wellington-Fray, who broke her neck in the disaster on March 6 and was unable to move her arms or legs, died three months later from pulmonary embolism - blood clots clogging the lungs. A pathologist said the clots could have been dislodged after an attempt to get Miss Fray moving again.

Miss Patricia Fox said that she and Miss Fray, a social worker aged 28, of Dunbar Street, West Norwood, south-east London, were among a group of friends on a day trip when the ferry capsized. "Dolly was standing up chatting and I saw her catapulted over the side. I saw Dolly hit her head and somersault over and land on her back against a metal barrier. She turned over it and landed on her head."

A member of the group called out each name to see if everyone was all right. "Dolly indicated that she was all right," Miss Fox said. "We could see she was not okay but she was such a brave girl."

Miss Fray was hauled from the wreck on a rope, winched into a helicopter and taken to a Belgian hospital, where she had an operation on her broken neck. She spent several weeks at St Jan Hospital, near Bruges, before being transferred to London, eventually to the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

Miss Fox visited her friend in hospital every day until her death on May 24. She said: "She was always bubbly and always lively. I should have seen her on the night she died but when I got to the hospital I was too late."

Professor James Cameron, a pathologist, said that pulmonary embolism was a recognized complication in people confined to bed, especially after sudden movement.

ment. "I believe she had been out of bed the previous day," he told the inquest at Dover.

A moment of forgetfulness saved the life of another passenger, Mrs Linda Ibbotson-Gale, of St Albans Close, Scunthorpe, Humberside. She went back to the cafeteria to find her camera and managed to grab hold of a seat as the Herald capsized.

Her husband Maurice, aged 36, who was waiting for her in the doorway, drowned after he was thrown across the full width of the ship. Mrs Ibbotson-Gale told the coroner: "He got thrown across the cafeteria into a plate glass window. It was too fast, I don't think he knew what was happening."

"I also saw a woman in a wheelchair. He sort of fell over her. She was holding on to a table to stop the wheelchair moving."

The inquest, on 188 victims of the disaster, continues today.

Weekend food prices

A good time to try out imported fish varieties

Disappointing fish landings in Europe have affected supplies to Billingsgate this week, resulting in higher prices for many popular species such as cod, coley, plaice and sole.

This could be a good time to ask the fishmonger about imported varieties such as trevally, at about £2.40 a lb or tilapia, also known as St Peter's fish, which is good value at about £1.95 a lb.

There is an abundance of mussels not only from Wales, Scotland and Norfolk but also from Spain and Ireland which are of excellent quality, keen, large and full of flavour. At 45p a pint they are also wonderful value. Large scallops cost 50p each, native oysters about 90p each, and Pacific oysters are half that price.

Lamb continues to be a good buy as prices of all cuts are down again this week. The average price of whole leg is £1.66 a lb; whole shoulder ranges between 63p and £1.08 a lb; and loin chops are about £1.97 a lb.

Pork loin and rib chops are

fractionally cheaper but boneless shoulder is up by about 2p to an average £1.24 a lb. The price of beef topside and silverside is down to between £1.98 and £2.40 a lb. Boneless sirloin and rump steak are up slightly but all other cuts are stable.

Some meat and poultry best buys this week include: Tesco pork chops, 99p a lb; home produced lamb loin chops, £1.69 a lb; Presto topside and silverside of beef, £1.88 a lb; New Zealand lamb leg, £1.34 a lb; Dewhurst home produced lamb shoulder, 79p a lb and lamb chops for the freezer from £8.99 a pack; Marks & Spencer chicken breast fillets in bread crumbs, down 20p to £2.69 a lb; Bejam topside of beef £1.69 a lb and chicken thighs, £2.79 for a 4.4 lb pack; Asda fresh chickens, 63p a lb and shoulder of pork, 99p a lb; Sainsbury fresh whole chicken, down 21p to 59p a lb.

The mild, damp weather has been good for cauliflowers and they are a bargain buy this week at 30-50p each.

Poor crop puts bread price up

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A loaf of bread is likely to cost 3p more from next month and other prices could rise because of this year's poor harvest, leaders of Britain's food industry said yesterday.

Mr Ted Dougal, of Rank Hovis MacDougall, said he could not make accurate predictions but guessed the price of bread would rise by about 3p and possibly as early as next month.

The price of beer could also be affected by shortage of top quality malting barley.

The harvest is unlikely to be more than 22.25 million tonnes, according to provisional results of a survey by the National Farmers' Union. That is 2.25 million tonnes less than last year and nearly 4.5 million tonnes down on the 1984 record.

Wheat yields and quality have suffered most from the persistent rain which has spoiled the harvest everywhere except in the West and South-west.

Reports from 350 farmers indicate that wheat yields in England and Wales are down by about 11 per cent.

Mr Tony Pexton, chairman of the NFU cereals committee, said yesterday: "It has been a very difficult harvest, and for many in East Anglia it has been disastrous."

Intervention stocks last June were down to only 1,500,000 tonnes, less than half their level a year earlier. But remaining stocks are mainly of low quality feed wheat.

The NFU council meeting in London yesterday also heard that the union was seeking counsel's advice on claiming compensation for farmers who planted Moulton seed which failed to pollinate.

The third and final crop survey published by *The Times* will appear on Monday.



The 1987 Readathon, which aims to raise money for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children by sponsoring young bookworms, being launched by Ronald Dahl who enthralled an audience at a bookshop in Covent Garden, central London. The national event, which raised £250,000 last year, runs until the end of next month (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Law is needed 'to curb race attacks'

By Michael Horsnell

Racial attacks are increasingly common and the police often fail to take action, the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday when it announced plans to campaign for legislation.

The commission says racial harassment must be made a criminal offence to enable prosecutions against the rising number of offenders.

A report by the commission showed that attacks are not confined to areas with large black populations.

Mr Colin Hann, who prepared the report, said: "We found widespread criticism of police that they were slow to respond and did not take complaints seriously. The picture is gloomy."

The commission also criticized local authorities for failing to act. Almost a third kept no records of individual incidents on housing estates where as many as one in four black residents claimed to

have been harassed in the past 12 months.

Dr Aaron Haynes, CRE chief executive, said: "What is worrying is the fact that many of those public agencies that should be concerned have no clear policy."

"And those that have, have failed to implement them with sufficient vigour. We believe that much can be done to counter racial violence. What is needed is the commitment

The commission says victims should have the right to transfer from council homes.

Mr Gurbox Singh, director of housing at Harrogate Council, said the offenders should be evicted from council property and treated as intentionally homeless so that the local authority had no responsibility to house them. Central government "needs to get its act together".

Living in Terror (The Commission for Racial Equality, Elliot House, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EH, free).

'Yuppie breaks' boost for airport

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

London's new City Airport received a double boost yesterday. A tour company decided to offer cut price weekend breaks from Docklands and approval grew nearer for a second type of aircraft to operate from the area.

Thomson Holidays is hoping to attract the young "yuppie" market to a programme of short weekend breaks in Paris at prices starting around £104. They will use Eurocity Express De Havilland Dash 7 aircraft.

The airport, scheduled to open on October 26, will concentrate on business travel, with regular flights to the Continent at the equivalent of Club Class fares. The aircraft, however, will be under-used at weekends and the deal with Thomson could renew interest in short late-booked breaks.

Dornier, the German aircraft manufacturer, is close to winning approval for its 19 seat

Dornier 228 commuter aircraft to use the airport. So far only the Dash 7 has been allowed unrestricted access because of its quietness, ability to make a steep approach, and very short take off and landing runs.

The Civil Aviation Authority has been studying the Dornier and believes it can meet the stringent controls.

If it does win approval it would probably be used on inter-city routes within Britain, although foreign airlines are also showing an interest.

Brymon, one of the airlines which will operate from the airport, yesterday unveiled its City Class business concept, designed to appeal to business travellers who want luxury allied with simplicity of travel.

Mr John Douthwaite, the airport director, said yesterday that he was "absolutely confident" that the airport would be ready on schedule.

90 police stormed the wrong address

A police raid to recapture two prisoners ended in farce when 90 officers, 20 of them armed, stormed the wrong address in Salford, Greater Manchester.

The dawn assault was made on a tower block flat which police thought held brothers Gary and Matthew MacDonald, who escaped from the city's Strangeways jail a fortnight ago after fellow gang members broke in to free them.

The raiding party had evacuated the rest of the block and reached the thirteenth floor before a policewoman advised the inspector in charge that the flat they wanted was in another block 40 yards away, where the force reassembled to re-enact the raid. They found the flat empty.

Yesterday police privately described the incident as "embarrassing". There was no official comment.

Back on road

Bradford, the last place in Britain to phase out trolley buses - 15 years ago - is the first to reinstate them. Yesterday West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority backed a 10km route linking the city centre to Battershall, the first stage of a £20 million Leeds - Bradford network.

Pony trap

It is often better to let Dartmoor ponies be killed for pet food than for animal lovers to buy them, the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society said yesterday. It has been inundated with offers after a television programme but says few can look after foals.

Twin talent

Identical twins Tanya and Tamsin Read have gained the same 10 O level passes at their school in Dereham, Norfolk, and are now studying A level courses in home economics, economics and history.

Child's play

Geneva (AP) - The World Philharmonic Orchestra, comprising of one member from each of the 110 symphony orchestras in 58 countries, will give two concerts in Tokyo in December to benefit Unicef.

How a Failure at 40 Can Retire a Millionaire Before 50

You think you've got problems? Well, I remember when a bank turned me down for a \$200 loan. Now I lend money to the bank - Certificates of Deposit at \$100,000 a crack.

I remember the day a car dealer got a little nervous because I was a couple of months behind in my payments - and repossessed my car. Now I own a Rolls Royce. I paid \$43,000 for it - cash.

I remember the day my wife phoned me, crying, because the landlord had shown up at the house, demanding his rent - and we didn't have the money to pay it.

Now we own five homes. Two are on the oceanfront in California (I use one as my office). One is a lakefront "cabin" in Washington (that's where we spend the whole summer - fishing, swimming, and sailing). One is a condominium on a sunny beach in Mexico. And one is engaged right on the best beach of the best island in Hawaii - Maui.

Right now I could sell all this property, pay off the mortgages - and - without touching any of my other investments - walk away with over \$750,000 in cash. But I don't want to do that. Almost a third kept no records of individual incidents on housing estates where as many as one in four black residents claimed to

I remember when I lost my job. Because I was head over heels in debt, my lawyer told me the only thing I could do was declare bankruptcy. He was wrong. I paid off every dime.

Now, I have a million dollar line of credit; but I still don't have a job. Instead, I get up every weekday morning and decide whether I want to go to work or not. Sometimes I do for 5 or 6 hours. But about half the time, I decide to read, go for a walk, sail my boat, swim, or ride my bike.

I know what it's like to be broke. And I know what it's like to have everything you want. And I know that you - like me - can decide which one it's going to be. It's really as easy as that. That's why I call it "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches."

So I'm going to ask you to send me

PROOF! Don't take my word for it. These are excerpts from articles in newspapers and magazines:

Time: He only works half the year in his stunning office on California's Sunset Beach, and even when he's there he puts in short hours... In other words, Joe Karbo, 48, is the prototype for... "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches."

Boston Herald-American: The book has drawn hundreds of letters from persons who have profited by it...

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner: An unpretentious millionaire, Joe Karbo of Huntington Harbor is a vibrant, living testimonial to his intellectual, pragmatic conviction.

Money Making Opportunities: Maybe Joe Karbo has the secret. Don't you think you owe it to yourself to find out what it is all about?... I just finished it - and I'm off on a vacation myself. Get the idea?

something I don't need: money. £10 to be exact. Why? Because I want you to pay attention. And I figure that if you've got £10 invested, you'll look over what I send you and decide whether to send it back... or keep it. And I don't want you to keep it unless you agree that it's worth at least a hundred times what you invested.

Is the material "worth" £10? No - if you think of it as paper and ink. But that's not what I'm selling. What I am selling is information. More information than I give in a one-hour consultation for \$300.

But you're really not risking anything. Because I won't cash your cheque or money order for 31 days after I've sent you my material. That's the deal. Return it in 31 days - and I'll send back your cheque or postal order - un-cashed.

How do you know I'll do it? Well, if you really want to be on the safe side, postdate your cheque for a month from today - plus 2 additional weeks. That'll give you plenty of time to receive it, look it over, try it out.

I know what you're thinking: "He got rich telling people how to get rich." The truth is - and this is very important - the year before I shared "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches," my income was \$216,646. And what I'll send you tells just how I made that kind of money... working a few hours a day... about 8 months out of the year.

It doesn't require "education." I'm a high school graduate.

It doesn't require "capital." Remember I was up to my neck in debt when I started. It doesn't require "luck." I've had more than my share. But I'm not promising you that you'll make as much money as I have. And you may do better. I personally know one man who used these principles, worked hard, and made \$11 million dollars in 8 years. But money isn't everything.

It doesn't require "talent." Just enough brains to know what to look for. And I'll tell you that.

It doesn't require "youth." One woman I worked with is over 70. She's travelled the world over, making all the money she needs, doing only what I taught her.

It doesn't require "experience." A widow in Chicago has been averaging \$25,000 a year for the past 5 years, using my methods.

What does it require? Belief. Enough to take a chance. Enough to absorb what I'll send you. Enough to put the principles into action. If you do just that - nothing more, nothing less - the results will be hard to believe. Remember - I guarantee it.

You don't have to give up your job. But you may soon be making so much money that you'll be able to. Once again - I guarantee it.

I know you're sceptical. Well, here are some comments from other people. (Initials have been used to protect the writer's privacy. The originals are in my files.) I'm sure that, like you, these people didn't believe me either when they clipped the coupon. Guess they figured that, since I wasn't going to deposit their cheques for at least 31 days, they had nothing to lose.

They were right. And here's what they gained:

"Thanks to your method I'm a half millionaire."

"Thanks to your method I grossed about \$500,000. Would you believe last year at this time I was a slave working for pennies?"

G.C. Toronto, Canada.

"\$24,000 in 45 days"

"...received \$24,000.00 in the mail the last 45 days."

"Thanks again."

Mr. E.G.N., Matewan, W.VA

"Made enough to retire at 41"

"If it hadn't happened to me, I wouldn't have believed it... A few years ago, I had nothing to lose. I was unemployed and broke."

"Now, thanks to you and the 'Lazy Man's' program, I have made enough money (at age 41) to retire in style."

R.A., Huntington Beach, Calif.

"There's no stopping me"

"Since I've got your 'Lazy Man's Way to Riches' in July, I've started 4 companies... there's no stopping me and I'm so high I need chairs to keep me on the ground."

M.T., Portland, OR

"Wow, it does work!"

"Oddly enough, I purchased 'Lazy Man's Way to Riches' some six months ago, or so, read it... and really did nothing about it. Then, about three weeks ago, when I was really getting desperate about my financial situation, I remembered it, re-read it, studied it, and this time, put it to work and WOW, it does work! Doesn't take much time, either... I guess some of us just have to be at a severe point of desperation before we overcome the ultimate laziness, procrastination."

Mr. J.K., Anaheim, CA

"Made \$70,000"

"A \$70,000 thanks to you for writing 'The Lazy Man's Way to Riches.' That's how much I've made."

"I use this extra income for all of the good things in life, exotic vacations, classic automobiles, etc. Soon I hope to make enough to quit my regular job and devote full time to making money the easy way..."

Mr. D.R., Newport Beach, CA

"\$260,000 in eleven months"

"Two years ago, I mailed you ten dollars in sheer desperation for a better life... One year ago, just out of the blue sky, a man called and offered me a partnership... I grossed over \$260,000 cash business in eleven months. You are a God sent miracle to me."

B.F., Pascagoula, Miss.

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You may be full of beans, but what have I got to lose? Send me the 'Lazy Man's Way to Riches.' But don't deposit my cheque or postal order for at least 31 days after it's in the mail. If I return your material - for any reason - within that time, return my uncashed cheque or postal order to me.

☐ On that basis, here's my £10

☐ Please charge my credit card.

A/C Number

Name

Address

Code

Signed

Date

(Please Print Clearly)

YN/18/89

"Stealthy upward ever since"

"I ordered 'Lazy Man's Way to Riches' in June... by September, my career was launched and has gone steadily upward ever since."

Ms. B.A., Walnut Creek, CA

"\$7,000 in five days"

"Last Monday I used what I learned on page 83 to make \$7,000. It took me all week to do it, but that's not bad for five days' work."

M.D., Topeka, Kansas

What I'm saying is probably contrary to what you've heard from your friends, your family, your teachers, and maybe everyone else you know.

I can only ask you one question. How many of them are millionaires?

So it's up to you.

A month from today, you can be nothing more than 30 days older - or you can be on your way to getting rich. You decide.

The wisest man I ever knew told me something I never forgot: "Most people are too busy earning a living to make any money."

Don't take as long as I did to find out he was right.

WORLD SUMMARY

NZ promises law on Maori rights

Wellington — The New Zealand Government pledged in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament yesterday that it would address the issue of Maori land claims in the forthcoming session (Richard Long writes).

The Governor-General, Sir Paul Reeves, the country's first Maori Governor-General, said that the Government would introduce a Maori Land Bill.

The speech gave no indication of details of the legislation, which follows increasing protests during recent months over Maori grievances dating back to the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi between the British and some chiefs who accepted British sovereignty in return for guaranteed Maori lands, forests and fisheries, a guarantee largely pushed aside in the expanded European settlement of last century.

Sir Paul also pledged more attention to the social welfare and education needs of Maoris during the present session, the first since the Labour Government of Mr David Lange was returned in August.

Thais halt MIA bid

The Thai authorities yesterday prevented a group of Americans from launching thousands of balloons from Thailand towards Laos, carrying promises of a \$2.4 million (£1.5 million) reward for anyone bringing a live American prisoner out of Laos, Vietnam or Cambodia (Neil Kelly writes).

After the Thais said that they would shoot down the helium-filled, toy-sized balloons the Americans floated the messages on the Mekong river, hoping that they would drift to the Laotian side and help provide information on some 2,500 Americans listed as missing in action (MIA) since the Vietnam war.

Exercise in Bavaria

Bonn — About 75,000 West German and French troops yesterday began deploying in Bavaria for the largest Franco-German field exercises ever held (John England writes).

Code named "Cheeky Sparrow", the corps-strength war game's "hot phase" will begin on Monday in the Munich/Ingolstadt area and end on Thursday, when Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand will link hands symbolically on a bridge built by pioneers at Kelheim.

More cash 500 ill at to Contras wedding

Washington — Republican and Democrat leaders have agreed tentatively to give \$2.12 million in "humanitarian" aid to the Nicaraguan Contras for food, uniforms and medical supplies from October 1, when current funding ends.

The aid will ensure that the rebels do not run out of basic non-military needs before November 7, when a new peace pact signed by five Central American presidents comes into effect.

War over, says Libya

Beirut (Reuters) — Colonel Gaddafi, left, the Libyan leader, says that Libya considers the war with Chad over but that it will retain the Aouzou border strip, the Libyan news agency Jana reported yesterday. "The great Jamahiriya (Libya) has closed its borders with Chad for ever, leaving Chad to the Chad people", it quoted him as saying. The sides agreed on Friday to a ceasefire in the four-week battle for the 44,000 sq mile strip.

Freedom for British hostages linked to UK-Syria relations

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut

There are increasing reports in Beirut that the Syrians will release the British hostages held captive in Lebanon if the British Government reopens diplomatic relations with Damascus.

Syria is not setting conditions for its help — which has been constantly promised since the first Briton, Mr Alec Collett, was kidnapped outside Beirut in 1985 — but the return of a British Ambassador to Damascus now appears to be an essential step if the Syrians are to give priority to the cases of the missing Britons.

The Syrians are well aware of the concern felt for Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's missing envoy, and Mr John McCarthy, the British television journalist who was abducted in Beirut after the American air raids on Libya in April last year.

Mr Waite, according to Shia sources in west Beirut, is still being held in the southern suburbs of the city, and Mr McCarthy is presumed to be imprisoned in the same area.

No claims or demands have been publicly made for the two men.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader who originally undertook to protect Mr Waite when he arrived in Beirut last January, has

been continuing to praise the Iranians in an apparent effort to gain their help in securing the envoy's release.

Mr Jumblatt was back in Damascus this week but there was no indication whether his talks with the Syrians involved Mr Waite. Both Syria and the Druze would like to claim credit for freeing him, and Mr Waite's reappearance could thus set some diplomatic problems.

It is also being said here that if the British reopen relations, the Syrians will immediately allow British Airways to resume their flights through Syrian airspace — a concession which was withdrawn when the British closed their embassy in Damascus last year in protest at the alleged involvement of the Syrian Government in an attempt to place a bomb on an El Al airliner at Heathrow airport.

For the present, however, Syria's immediate attention is focused on the remaining West German hostage, Herr Rudolf Cordes, who is expected to be released if the Germans free Mr Abbas Hamadei, the brother of the man accused of hijacking the TWA jet to Beirut in 1985.

The Syrians are making no secret of their satisfaction at the state of Syrian-West German relations — in marked contrast to the rupture of

Anglo-Syrian relations — and reports from Bonn that President Assad had been personally involved in securing the release of Herr Alfred Schmidt, the West German hostage freed in Beirut last week, are said here to be correct.

Further reports that money was paid by the West Germans for Herr Schmidt's release have been emerging, this time from Tunis where Mr Salah Khalaf, one of Mr Yasser Arafat's closest PLO advisers, claimed that more than \$1 million (£600,000) was paid to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) movement.

Mr Khalaf, who did not disclose how he gained his supposed "knowledge" of the hostage deal, also said that the Bonn Government had promised to support Iran in its war with Iraq, and to free Mr Abbas Hamadei. His brother, Muhammad, who has been charged with explosives offences in West Germany, will also be freed, according to Mr Khalaf.

In the past, the PLO — ever anxious to be given serious diplomatic recognition — has tried to create the impression that it has an insider's knowledge of hostage deals in Lebanon. Its claims, however, have often proved to be wrong.

France ordered to change road tax

Luxembourg (Reuters) — The European Court of Justice ruled yesterday that the French road tax system must be changed because it discriminates against importers of big cars from EEC neighbours.

The court had been told that owners of fast French cars paid approximately five times less road tax under the system

in 1985 than owners driving foreign-made equivalents.

This was because of a graded scale of payments which rises particularly steeply for vehicles of above-average horsepower.

STRASBOURG: A row broke out in the European Parliament yesterday after extracts from Mr Peter Wright's banned book, *Spycatcher*, were excised from the minutes

of Wednesday's business (A Correspondent writes).

British Labour MEPs submitted extracts from the book as written explanations of voting on a debate on trains. The President of the Parliament, Lord Plumb, decided to remove the record of these written statements from the verbatim report of Parliament's proceedings.



Senator Joseph Biden, the Democratic presidential hopeful, answering charges of plagiarism in Washington yesterday.

Biden admits he cribbed Kinnock

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Senator Joseph Biden, stumbling and inarticulate, his sentences frequently trailing off, yesterday answered accusations that he had extensively plagiarized pithy, hard-hitting language from Mr Neil Kinnock and others for use in his presidential campaign speeches.

As a performance it was a disaster that seems certain to damage his bid for the Democratic nomination. He offered a rambling explanation of why he borrowed liberally, without attribution, from a speech by Mr Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, and asserted to everyone's surprise that he would continue "using Kinnock throughout this campaign".

Mr Biden also answered charges that he was not actively involved in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. But he was concerned, he said. Indeed, he was a lifeguard at an all-black swimming pool

school of Syracuse University, saying that he did "a very stupid thing 23 years ago" but had expunged the wrong by retaking the course.

The charges of plagiarism are particularly damaging to Mr Biden because of his reputation as a laid-back, powerful off-the-cuff orator. He said he had used excerpts from Mr Kinnock because he was looking for a "close" to a speech.

His campaign manager told him that "the Kinnock thing expresses what you mean and I said, 'Devil, you are right, thinking about it, that applies to me'. And that's honest to God true what happened, riding over in the van."

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After his press conference, Mr Biden, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, again took the chair at critically important hearings into the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the United States Supreme Court.

Geneva arms talks reach fever pitch

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Twenty American arms officials are committed to two months of intensive negotiations with their Soviet counterparts to iron out the remaining legal and practical problems at the intermediate nuclear forces talks in Geneva, according to senior sources in Washington.

As the crucial meetings between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, ended in Washington yesterday, the third day, their key officials in Geneva were sending cables back every few hours to their respective capitals with the latest agreed clauses.

The sources insisted there was no sense of haste, despite persistent allegations that the Americans were desperate to finalize the treaty details for a formal signing in November. "No one is in a hurry," the sources said.

However, the level of activity in Geneva has now reached fever pitch because, with the main issues resolved, the four working groups on INF are "hammering out the nitty-gritty" problems. They have a list of favoured

restaurants where they go most days to discuss the bargaining, either one-to-one or in small groups.

According to the sources, the four groups, who meet in the US and Soviet missions in Geneva, as well as in restaurants, are focusing on verification; dismantling and destruction; "preamble and closing language" (of the treaty); and reduction (the phased elimination of the missiles). The sources insisted: "Everything is being done in a very orderly way. This is not a rush job. It has got to be done with great care."

Each day, about three or four cables are sent by the US negotiators to Washington to help the treaty experts draw up the document — the drafting itself is done in Washington and Moscow.

The cables, detailing the latest state of play in Geneva, are then circulated to a number of key Administration departments, including the Central Intelligence Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defence Department and the National Security Council.

The sources said that, in each case,

departmental representatives met to decide on an agreed position. "They all arrive with different preoccupations," said one source. Cables are then sent back to Geneva.

Apart from the verification issue, which is still causing a headache in Geneva, the working group on "dismantling and destruction" is faced with resolving such crucial questions as how many cuts to make for each type of delivery vehicle and missile, and whether they should be vertical or horizontal before they could be classed as destroyed.

The Americans insist that the whole focus has always been on the delivery systems, not the warheads, and dismiss the latest statements by the Soviet side that the warheads must be destroyed.

"This is a phoney issue," said one source. "It's the delivery systems that need to be destroyed. The warheads contain fissionable material, they can't just be destroyed. They also contain very classified guidance systems, and no one wants the other side looking over their shoulder as these are dismantled."

INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Aftermath of nuclear disaster

Chernobyl 'will give thousands cancer'

About 1,000 more cancers may occur in Western Europe and several thousand more elsewhere in the world as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, Mr Geoffrey Webb, Secretary of the National Radiological Protection Board, said yesterday.

He told lawyers at the International Bar Association conference in London that cancer was the most important late effect in people irradiated. Not everyone who was exposed would develop the disease, but each was considered to have a greater likelihood of doing so.

The predicted extra cancers in Europe would be undetectable when set against the total of some 30 million Europeans who would die of natural

cancers or cancers induced from other causes over the same period. The extra cancers world-wide would similarly not be noticeable, even in the Soviet Union outside the immediate vicinity of Chernobyl.

Mr Webb said that another way to express the theoretical health consequences of the Chernobyl accident was that the additional risk to any individual member of the public in the EEC was about one in a million.

Outlining the short and long term radiological consequences of the disaster, Mr Webb said that as a result of the accident some tens of people died acutely immediately after the event; about 100,000 people were evacuated from their

homes for a long period, certainly for a year or two; and food restrictions were applied throughout the whole of Western Europe on imports and exports, and in many countries on domestic consumption.

In the immediate few days after such an accident, Mr Webb said, the direction of the wind and weather conditions were crucial. During the release of radiation, which at Chernobyl continued for ten days, people breathed in material in the cloud and were exposed to radiation as the cloud passed over and to the material it deposited on the ground. Growing plants were also contaminated.

It was unavoidable that during that period some peo-

ple on the nuclear plant would receive doses of radiation, perhaps necessarily to save other lives or to prevent the accident getting worse.

For members of the public, there were a number of important counter-measures which could be taken. Among those were the evacuation of people from the scene of the accident, and the issue of stable iodine tablets which prevented the take-up of particular types of radiation into the thyroid.

One particular problem at Chernobyl was that visitors to the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries, and embassy staff, were extremely concerned about whether they should come home. They had to be advised, which required considerable analysis of the

small amount of data which was available.

Mr Webb said that a number of lessons could be learnt from Chernobyl. First, it was important to stabilize the plant, to ensure no further release. That was a priority. It could be systematically repaired, cleaned up and re-introduced, as was being done at Three Mile Island, in the United States, or it could be sealed up and "entombed", which was being done at Chernobyl.

Second, there had to be a big programme of decontamination of buildings, urban areas and roads, and agricultural land.

Third, it was vital that water supplies were protected from contamination. That had been a priority around Chernobyl to avoid contamination of the Kiev reservoir.

Fourth, there needed to be continued medical supervision for those exposed and evacuated. New clinics and a substantial medical team would be employed more or less permanently in keeping watch on the 135,000 people evacuated from around Chernobyl.

At a longer distance, there was the problem of radiation doses from the cloud of material as it passed over, which was the problem that had affected Western Europe, and particularly the United Kingdom.

In the initial stages, the main problem was the short-lived iodine that got into milk. In the longer term, concern switched to longer-lived radiation, and there had to be continual monitoring of food supplies over a wide area

Insurers fight shy of space

A United Kingdom space insurance expert yesterday denied there was any "insurance crisis" for space ventures, although he admitted the market was suffering a "crisis of confidence".

Mr Bernard Goudge, of Satellite Insurance Services, Seaford, East Sussex, said that despite much talk of the lack of insurance capacity, which was said to be inhibiting the development of commercial activity in outer space, there was insurance available.

That was clear from comparisons with the limit available for other classes of business such as oil rigs and large industrial complexes. But there was a "crisis of confidence in the ability of the technology to perform according to its original promise".

"Very considerable capacity exists, which has never been involved in space insurance for the simple reason that it views the business as too hazardous, too unknown and demonstrably highly unprofitable," he said.

"What the insurers are really looking for is evidence of improved quality and reliability in the products and technology... and when and to what extent improvement in success ratios may be expected."

The space industry was fighting hard to recover from a series of disasters and was seeking new directions to bring the programme back on course, Mr Goudge said.

It was "absolutely vital" that international space insurers should not feel cut off from that process but be considered an integral part of it.

Castration for sex offenders backed by police chief

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Mr James Anderson, the leader of Britain's chief constables, yesterday publicly supported the use of castration on serious sex offenders if the penalty can be shown to deter or cure.

Mr Anderson raised the spectre of compulsory physical or chemical castration, ordered by the courts, at an international police conference in London which yesterday debated how best to deal with the growing problem of sex offences. Speakers described the increasing skill of rapists in avoiding detection or conviction and talked of a plague of child molestation.

One researcher, who deals with offenders in British prisons, estimated that many paedophiles will each have attacked up to 100 children by the time they reach their middle age, and it was that crime which drew Mr Anderson's greatest ire.

Speaking during the International Police Exhibition and Conference '87, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and President of the Association of Chief Police Officers said that large numbers of paedophiles in Britain were exchanging information, advising each other and recommending children to each other.

He added: "All that makes me, as a man, a father and a policeman, feel first of all positively sickened and, second, intensely angry. What I want to do to those people, whatever their problem, is punish them severely. It might be draconian, unsympathetic, insensitive and unscientific but it is the way I feel."

He suspected others shared his view, though he was not very sure that castration for serious sex offenders would produce the right result at the end of the day.

The use of castration was questioned by Mr Ray Wye, a consultant therapist dealing with sex offenders. He told the conference that it might not stop offenders who could counter its effects with chemicals to give them a fresh stimulation to carry out assaults and other offences might come out of prison with a terrible desire for revenge or destruction.

A study in New York showed that 411 child molesters admitted carrying out attacks on 138,137 children. When 237 first offenders were questioned, under an agreement that they would not be prosecuted for their confessions, they admitted that between them they had assaulted more than 17,000 children under the age of 14.

Mr Wye said: "I do not believe there is a cure. I think we are talking about control." He suggested more treatment in prison to help offenders to control or halt their appetites and greater monitoring when they returned to the community.

Mrs Michele Elliot, an expert on child abuse cases, said that she felt there was no treatment for the offenders, only containment. She suggested any offender who received treatment in prison should not be allowed to live in a house near a child for five years after his release. He should hold no professional position involving children, and he should be monitored.

Last Jew freed but others pay for their beliefs

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

A shameful episode in Soviet history ended this week when Mr Alexei Magarik, aged 29, a diminutive, pale, thin cellist and Hebrew teacher, returned to Moscow from a remote Siberian labour camp to become the last imprisoned Jewish dissident to be freed under the Kremlin's liberalization programme. Some 4,000 Jews have been allowed to leave up to the end of August this year.

Sentenced in 1986 to three years in a general-regime camp — the same lowest-grade classification of punishment now facing the teenage West German pilot, Mr Matthias Rust — Mr Magarik, who was convicted on drug charges widely

regarded as trumped up, had his sentence reduced by half by the authorities.

"He is the last Jewish dissident to come back from labour camp as far as we know," said Mr Vladimir Slepak who, after waiting 17 years for an exit visa, has become the doyen of the Soviet emigration movement.

Mr Magarik's new-found freedom and the apparent reluctance of the Soviet Government to send any more Jewish activists to its camps and prisons are regarded as an integral part of Moscow's policy of gradually thawing the relations with Israel, formally broken off in 1967.

Yesterday, Mr Magarik told *The Times* of the shocking conditions

in labour camp Number 8, which is near the Siberian city of Omsk, where winter temperatures can drop to 40°C below freezing. About 2,500 men were held there.

"Everyone had to wear black badges with their names on, except about 100 of us who were singled out to wear special yellow badges because we were regarded as difficult characters in need of supervision at all times," he said, sitting in the 11th-floor flat where he was reunited on Wednesday with his wife, Natasha, aged 31, and their son, who is four.

"I was told by the guards that I would have to wear a yellow badge because my father had gone to Israel and because I wanted to go to Israel. None of the prisoners

treated me as a genuine drug offender or a criminal. They all accepted that I had been sent to Siberia because I was a Jewish activist."

Before being detained at Tbilisi airport in Georgia after being found with a cigarette box allegedly containing hashish, Mr Magarik was a leading refusenik who earned a living playing the cello for Jewish musical groups specializing in Hasidic and modern Israeli songs.

In the camp, the prisoners slept 30 to a dormitory in two-tier bunks from which they were woken every morning at six. "One of the worst things was the food," Mr Magarik explained. "Usually just disgusting, foul-smelling soup

with black bread. You had somehow to learn not to smell it when you were eating, otherwise you would retch and it would be impossible to get it down."

"Sometimes it was made out of rotting vegetables and sometimes out of unseasoned fish. Between meals, we were marched in columns to a workshop where we made wooden boxes. At night, we were supposed to do 'political education' but, thank God, the guards never enforced that."

Mr Magarik, who first applied to emigrate to Israel in 1983, when his father and sister — her picture is emblazoned across the front of his white T-shirt — were given permission to leave for Jerusalem. "In the new climate, I am optimistic

that we will now be free to join them," he said.

As the still boyish-looking refusenik talked, it was obvious that he found reliving recent memories of the camp painful. "It is frustrating. Life there is so different from anything anyone outside has ever experienced that it is hard to get across what it was really like."

"Perhaps the only way is in a book like Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Certainly, the labour camps will be the last place where any reforms will be introduced. Words like *perestroika* (pay for performance) and *glasnost* (openness) have no meaning."

Mrs Magarik blinked through

thick spectacles and explained how she had travelled for two days by train from Moscow to visit her husband for just two hours.

Altogether about 180 dissidents (not all Jews) have been released since the special pardons given by the review board set up on the orders of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. But others who are not Jews still remain, as Mr Magarik was quick to point out.

"One man, a Crimean Tatar from Tashkent, was brought into the camp in March because of his campaign for a return to his homeland. So, just because I am the last Jew to be set free, it does not mean that there are not still others imprisoned for their beliefs," he said.

South Africa's slow road of reform

Group areas change will be left to decision of residents

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A presidential advisory body yesterday recommended that residential areas at present reserved by law exclusively for whites in South Africa should be opened to all races if their present inhabitants agree.

In a 252-page report released in Cape Town, the constitutional affairs committee of the President's Council also said, however, that these white communities wishing to remain racially exclusive should be allowed to do so and should continue to have statutory protection.

The committee also proposed that the Separate Amenities Act, one of the remaining legal pillars of apartheid, should be repealed. The Act, introduced in 1953, provides for the segregation of a wide range of public amenities, from buses and trains to parks and beaches.

This proposal is less dramatic than it sounds because many such amenities have been, or are being, desegregated. Abolition of the Act would simply end the power of the central or the provincial governments to enforce such segregation, leaving the decision to local authorities.

President Botha, in a statement issued last night by his office, said that the Government would make known its "general position" after studying the report, but warned that "the committee's recommendations should not be taken as a green light to act in contravention of the existing laws."

Taken together, the President's Council's proposals, if accepted, would represent a further important step in the Government's grudging, slow-motion retreat from apartheid, whereby gradualist, piecemeal change is permitted, but at a pace firmly controlled by whites.

The 60 members of the council are representative of all the main racial groups except blacks, who make up more than 70 per cent of the

population. 35 of the members are drawn from the ruling National Party. Of the 19 members of the council's constitutional affairs committee, only 13 signed the final report, and of these 71 were members of the National Party. At a press conference yesterday, the committee's chairman, Dr Dries Oosthuizen, conceded that the document was "mainly a National Party report."

The six committee members who refused to sign belonged to the Black Progressive Federal Party and the extreme right-wing Conservative Party, both of which are

Journalist cleared of 'lies' charges

Johannesburg — Mr Tony Weaver, the deputy news editor of the *Cape Times*, announced last night he was considering filing a civil damages suit against the Minister of Law and Order and the Commissioner of Police for malicious prosecution (Our Own Correspondent writes).

The journalist made this known after he was acquitted yesterday in the Cape Town Regional Court of four counts of contravening the Police Act by publishing "untrue matter" about the police without taking reasonable steps to verify its accuracy.

The sensational trial, which lasted with adjournments for many months, arose out of a *Cape Times* report, and a subsequent interview Mr Weaver gave to the BBC, about an incident in the black township of Guguletu, near Cape Town, in March 1986, when the police shot dead seven alleged black African National Congress insurgents.

In the interview, which drew on information in the paper's earlier report, Mr Weaver cited the evidence of witnesses that some of the deceased had

white, and to the Coloured (mixed race) Labour Party, and the Indian Solidarity Party.

The Conservative Party is opposed to any changes at all, but it can be assumed that other opposition members who refused to approve the report did so because they want the Group Areas Act repealed and not merely relaxed.

Between now and Tuesday, the President's Council will debate the constitutional committee's report in plenary session before formally adopting it. A preliminary indication of the Government's

attitude to its recommendations is expected on Wednesday, but there seems little doubt that it will approve most of the proposals. The report appears already to have the support of the National Party, and is thought to be a diluted version of a more radical draft whose adoption President Botha reportedly intervened to thwart last November.

It is understood that some or most of its proposals could be incorporated in legislation during the 1988 session of Parliament. The constitution contains a mechanism enabling the white House of Assembly, where the National Party has a large majority, to pass laws without the support of the separate Coloured and Indian houses.

The report argues that the Group Areas Act cannot be "summarily overturned" or "disturbed without good reason". Account must be taken, it says, of the "very real fears" of many poorer whites that their less expensive residential areas would be "swamped".

One intriguing implication of the report's recommendations concerns the voting rights of blacks, Coloureds and Indians in an "open" area that falls within the jurisdiction of an elected local authority that otherwise represents only whites. The report says there could be "no justification for two people living next door to each other, and using the same services and paying rates and taxes, and for one to have a say in the provision of services by voting for a representative, while the other has no such say."

Presenting the report, Dr Oosthuizen said that even if the report were implemented by the Government, change would come about only very gradually. "I personally believe that, as far as your upper income strata are concerned, there will be much freer mixing across the colour bars, but in the lower strata the situation will remain as it is."

Mr Weaver told *The Times* he had sent a statement to the Attorney-General of Cape province, asking whether, in the light of the magistrate's verdict, charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and murder would now be investigated against the police officers concerned.

The magistrate, Mr J. M. Lemmer, said police evidence on how the seven men had been killed had contradicted medical evidence, which had shown conclusively that some of the deceased had been shot at point-blank range.

He also found that Mr Weaver had accurately reported the evidence and "true feelings" of the witnesses, and had taken care to present their information as allegations.

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The magistrate, Mr J. M. Lemmer, said police evidence on how the seven men had been killed had contradicted medical evidence, which had shown conclusively that some of the deceased had been shot at point-blank range.

He also found that Mr Weaver had accurately reported the evidence and "true feelings" of the witnesses, and had taken care to present their information as allegations.

Mr Weaver told *The Times* he had sent a statement to the Attorney-General of Cape province, asking whether, in the light of the magistrate's verdict, charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and murder would now be investigated against the police officers concerned.

Songs in praise of America



Alisan Porter, aged five, of Worcester, Massachusetts, singing *This Is My Country*, watched by members of the US Fire and Drum Corps, during a celebration of citizenship ceremony on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

The event was part of the celebrations of the bicentenary of the United States constitution and yesterday President Reagan led the nation in parades, patriotic speeches, singing, flagwaving and all-American hoots as part of a rousing reaffirmation of American faith

Philadelphia was the focus of the celebrations, and it laid on a bell-ringing, star-spangled bonanza that began with a \$3.5 million (\$2.1 million), six-hour parade complete with 20,000 marchers and 1,500 white doves fluttering skyward.

President Reagan rang the centennial bell atop Independence Hall, where the constitution was born, to herald the third century of the federal Government with praise for the "genius of our constitutional system."

\$3m costs awarded in colony fraud case

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A Hong Kong court yesterday awarded full court costs to two accountants acquitted of conspiracy to defraud in Hong Kong's longest and costliest trial.

Mr Anthony Lo and Mr David Begg of the American accounting firm Price Waterhouse were awarded costs that lawyers close to the case said could exceed more than \$5 million (£3 million).

Mr George Tan, a Malaysian businessman, his chief deputy, Mr Bentley Ho, business associates, Mr Stephen Lam and Mr Rogerio Lam, and Mr Lo and Mr Begg were all found not guilty on Tuesday of conspiring to defraud Carrian's shareholders and creditors by inflating the firm's accounts. The trial took 18 months.

Mugabe praise

Harare (Reuters) — The Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, praised his country's last British colonial governor, Lord Soames, who died on Wednesday, describing him as a forceful political personality.

UK's appeal

Sydney (Reuters) — The Court of Appeal here will give its verdict next week on Britain's appeal to maintain a ban on the book, *Spycatcher*, of retired MI5 agent, Mr Peter Wright, court officials said.

Indian clash

Madras (Reuters) — Ten people were killed and scores injured when Indian police fired on farmers protesting in the southern state of Tamil Nadu for more drought relief, officials said.

Korean protest

Seoul (AP) — South Korean riot police dispersed 4,000 students taking part in an anti-government demonstration at Chosun University in the southern city of Kwangju in one of several nationwide protests.

Link reopens

Aldorf, Switzerland (AP) — The Gotthard route, Switzerland's and one of Europe's main north-south travel links, closed for three weeks because of flooding, is to reopen to traffic today.

Ford serious

Washington (AFP) — Mr Henry Ford II, aged 70, former head of the giant motor car manufacturer, was listed in a serious condition with pneumonia in Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital.

Mini alliance

Andorra — Officials of Europe's six smallest countries, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, and San Marino are to co-operate in maintaining their own cultural identities.

Happy family

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa (Reuters) — A woman and her 15 children placed a signed advertisement in a newspaper thanking staff at a local hospital for performing a vasectomy on her husband.

Correction

Sony is an independent electronics manufacturer, not a division of Matsushita as reported yesterday.

Plumb in flare-up over Gibraltar

From A Correspondent, Brussels

Lord Plumb, the President of the European Parliament, was at the centre of a diplomatic row here yesterday after an apparent snub to Sir Joshua Hassan, the visiting Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

In a move interpreted as an insult by many British MEPs, Lord Plumb refused to meet a Gibraltarian delegation at his parliamentary office. Instead, he decided at the last minute that a private meeting should be held at the residence of the British representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

But many of the guests, including Sir Joshua and Mr Joe Bossano, the leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party were not immediately informed of the change.

The veteran Chief Minister said yesterday he had chased after Lord Plumb in a taxi and stayed at the reception just long enough to give the President a piece of his mind.

He recounted: "I said, 'I am very sorry you have submitted to Spanish pressure. I will not be humiliated this way, thank you very much. Goodbye.' And I stormed out." Spain still regards Gibraltar as an illegal British colony on Spanish soil.

Lord Plumb said yesterday he had been acting in the interests of the European Parliament and regretted Sir Joshua's reaction.



Lord Plumb: "Regretted reaction from Sir Joshua."

American homosexual on harm charges

Trial of Aids victim begins

From John England, Bonn

An American, accused of having sexual relations with three other men although he knew he was suffering from Aids, went on trial in a West German court yesterday on a charge of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

The civilian, aged 45, a former cook who has not been named, was arrested last February in Nuremberg, where he had lived for some time. He spent seven months in a remand prison before his appearance in the Nuremberg High Court in a case that has raised a storm of protest from Aids help organizations.

They say that, at worst, he should have been charged only with attempting to cause bodily harm through negligence. But the Bavarian State Government, which alone in West Germany earlier this year introduced draconian new laws against Aids sufferers, stood firm.

The Bavarian Justice Minister, Frau Mathilde Berghof-

er-Weichner, told the State Parliament shortly after the American's arrest that an Aids sufferer who knowingly infected a sexual partner could even be charged with murder.

Nuremberg murder squad detectives carried out the investigation of the man, who is alleged to have committed four homosexual acts between June 1986 and January this year without telling his partners that he was infected and without taking precautions to prevent infecting them.

The prosecution claims that his sexual partners were therefore brought into "danger of death". The American's defence lawyer, Herr Karl Heinz Becker, accused the prosecution of harming his client's "personality rights" by one-sided and illegal methods of investigation.

He said that after the prosecutors had questioned a doctor who had treated the American, they had persuaded him to release the doctor from

his professional oath of silence. The prosecution was also being vague about the exact dates of the alleged offences, he added, although it was vital to know if they had taken place before or after the day on which his client was told that he was infected.

The trial got off to a bad start when a woman interpreter appointed by the court refused to sit next to the American, who speaks very softly. "I have two children and don't want to put them at risk," she said.

Herr Becker objected to her taking part in the trial, but the court rejected his application. He then formally accused the court of partiality.

Prostitute jailed: A Munich prostitute, aged 23, was sentenced to two years in jail last May for carrying on her trade although she knew she had Aids. That broke one of Bavaria's new laws making Aids tests compulsory for prostitutes of both sexes.

Israeli inquiry into worst border clash

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

While Israel mourns the loss of three more young soldiers in Lebanon, the Army has opened an investigation into the ambush on Tuesday evening in which they died. With four other soldiers wounded it resulted in more Israeli casualties than any other single action since the main withdrawal from Lebanon more than two years ago.

Among questions to be answered are why it took so long for the Israeli forces to be relieved and whether it is wise for patrols in such remote and dangerous areas to be left to very young and relatively inexperienced soldiers.

The men involved, although from the highly-rated Givati Brigade, had only one year of training.

Another worrying factor for Israel is that the well-armed and determined attackers were apparently members of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, a group which is

growing with the help of Syrian money and equipment in Lebanon, and wants to force Israel to pull back from its self-declared "security zone" inside the border and to stop its air attacks on Lebanese soil.

The continuing need for the "security zone" is seen as essential by the army, however. Major-General Jossi Peled, who commands the soldiers serving in Lebanon, yesterday gave "an unequivocal yes" in answer to whether there was a need for Israeli soldiers to enter Lebanon to protect the northern border.

"The security zone is designed to provide security for the northern settlements," he said.

General Amos Lapidot, the retiring Air Force chief, said South Lebanon was subject to "continuous" Israeli activity. He said claims of high civilian casualties in Israeli raids were "a gross exaggeration".

Black 'spy' on bomb charge

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe's leading newspaper, *The Herald*, yesterday reported that intelligence officials here were holding a South African black in connection with a bomb blast in the capital last May.

Mr Tommy Sithole, the editor of the newspaper, said in his report that the man, the former owner of an art centre in South Africa and identified only as "Mr X", aged about 50, had been recruited by South African military intelligence to infiltrate the African National Congress and had been supplied with an array of high-technology secret-agent items "that would make any James Bond film producer green with envy."

The journalist says he ob-

tained from Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organization evidence which the state proposes to use against Mr X in his forthcoming murder trial. Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Minister of State Security, is quoted as saying that the Attorney-General's office is drawing up charges.

The Herald also publishes pictures of the bearded and sandalled Mr X, his face partially masked, demonstrating a slim 9 mm pistol and its silencer, a wedding ring fitted with a micro-transmitter, its portable booster transmitter, a bottle of poison he is alleged to have used to kill an unnamed ANC official in Mozambique, a box of subsonic bullets and how they fitted into concealed compartments of his modified

Mazda car, which bears a sticker "I love Bloemfontein."

On May 11, a bomb partially demolished a central Harare apartment block, killing Mrs Tsitsi Chiliza, the Zimbabwean wife of Mr Frank Chiliza, a financial administrator of the ANC. The Government here blamed South Africa, and said the bomb had exploded in a booby-trapped television set.

South African security men, who are said to have persuaded Mr X to attempt to infiltrate the ANC, are believed to have given him the set. Mr X was to have planted the set on an ANC representative in Maputo, but Mr Chiliza, who accepted it in the Mozambique capital, took it home.

Ozone pact sparks new chemicals hunt

New York (NYT) — The new international agreement to limit the production of chlorofluorocarbons and halons to protect the Earth's ozone layer will start a race in the \$2.2 billion (£1.3 billion) industry to develop alternatives that are not hazardous to the ozone layer, according to officials at several American chemical companies.

Under the treaty, reached in Montreal by rich and poor countries who had been brought together under the banner of the United Nations Environment Programme, participating nations will first freeze and later reduce their consumption of widely used chemicals that, according to emerging scientific consensus, destroy ozone molecules in the upper atmosphere.

The gas shields the earth by blocking some of the ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Any increase in that radiation, resulting from a thinning of the ozone layer, will cause skin cancer and other harm to people as

well as damage to crops, forests and other natural systems, scientists say.

The five US manufacturers of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) said the agreement would not hit their sales or earnings significantly because the chemicals represent only a small percentage of their businesses.

But chemical industry executives said that the pact, signed on Wednesday by the United States, the European Community and 23 other nations, would compel them to spend more money on research and development. Mr Charles Coe, a spokesman for Allied-Signal, said: "Our costs for research and development have already gone up, and they will go up much more."

Some industry officials said the push to move away from using the chemicals, on which limits were placed by the agreement, and to develop alternative products would probably

result in a lower supply of the highly specialized chemicals.

They acknowledged that this would lead to slightly higher prices for the chemicals and the products that contain them, most notably, refrigerator compressors, air-conditioning equipment, aerosols and some insulation materials.

Mr Peter Miller, manager of the chlorofluorocarbon department of the Pennwalt Corporation in Philadelphia, said: "When it comes to access, there is going to be an instant shortage. The prices are going to get so high that companies will be forced to find alternatives."

Mr Coe said chemical companies would probably study methods of recovering chlorofluorocarbons from old appliances so that the chemicals could be recycled rather than released into the atmosphere, as was the case when the appliances were scrapped.

"For us, this thing borders on being

catastrophic for our CFC business," said Mr Robert Jeanson, a vice-president of Kaiser Chemicals, the Cleveland-based subsidiary of the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation. "It is a business that we've been in for more than 20 years, and now it's essentially being phased out."

He said that the larger companies, such as E.I. du Pont, de Nemours, and Allied-Signal, would probably be first in developing substitutes because of their larger budgets for research

Du Pont executives agreed that the research would be costly and long. "By our estimates, any substitute will take about seven years to develop," said Mr Craig Skaggs, a spokesman for Du Pont, the largest maker of chlorofluorocarbons. "Because of the tremendous amount of toxicology testing you have to do internally and with the Federal Government it is going to take some time."



The Mercedes-Benz 200-300E series. Choose breathtaking performance or remarkable economy. Elegance is standard.

It was perhaps a formidable automotive engineering challenge to create a size range of cars that was true to the Marque yet could meet diverse demands of the high mileage businessman to fast moving executive.

The Mercedes-Benz 200-300E series met the challenge. A range of six models, four petrol and two diesel, with a choice of engine sizes from two litres to three litres. Yet not one car in the range is a compromise. The shape and dimensions are shared in six variations that can be precisely matched to individual needs and personal

Model	Engine Size (cc)	Number of Cylinders	Bhp (DIN)	0-62mph (secs)	Max mph	Standard Transmission	Mpg (litres/100k)
Petrol 200	1997	4	109	12.6	116	5 speed Manual	25.1 (11.2)
230E	2299	4	136	10.4	126	5 speed Manual	25.4 (11.1)
260E	2599	6	166	9.5	133	4 speed Automatic	22.8 (12.4)
300E	2962	6	188	8.2	139	4 speed Automatic	22.1 (12.8)
Diesel 250D	2497	5	90	18.5	109	5 speed Manual	31.7 (8.9)
300D	2996	6	109	13.7	118	5 speed Manual	28.8 (9.8)

Source: Manufacturer's Figures/Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures.

Each car is first and foremost an exercise in engineering excellence, designed to compete not simply against competitive makes but against much tougher rivals: Mercedes-Benz models they replaced. These cars are lighter yet stronger and safer than their predecessors. They combine higher engine power and improved acceleration with considerably reduced fuel consumption.

As with every new generation Mercedes-Benz, these saloons were designed and developed during a nine-year programme. They demonstrate how more space can be created without an increase in size and how improved ergonomics can provide a better driving environment. The uncluttered outer skin forms an aerodynamically efficient shape, yet still retains the unmistakeable and timeless Mercedes-Benz look.

The 200-300E series demonstrates incredibly tenacious road-holding ability. A long wheelbase and wide track help, but it's mostly due to a revolutionary suspension system: shock-absorber struts, independent front suspension and a unique Mercedes-Benz multi-link independent rear suspension.

There are dual-circuit servo assisted disc brakes on all four wheels and on the 260E and 300E there's the additional security of ABS anti-lock braking as standard. Safety innovations include electronic tensioners for the front seat belts and pedals that swing away to limit the danger of injury to the driver's feet in the event of an accident.

Performance, handling, comfort and reliability are all fundamental to the 200-300E series. Timeless Mercedes-Benz styling, quality of finish and retained resale value give the cars their enviable reputation. A reputation unique to the name Mercedes-Benz.



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New Caledonia's future

Chirac rejects independence

From Stephen Taylor
Nouméa

In an unequivocal demonstration of national prestige and intent, M. Jacques Chirac came to New Caledonia in a sleek white Concorde yesterday and declared that France was in the South Pacific to stay.

It was an emphatic rejection of demands for independence by the territory's indigenous Kanak population.

But even as the aircraft landed to an ecstatic welcome from loyalists, a regional outcry was looming over M. Chirac's visit to two French agents being held in connection with the Rainbow Warrior affair.

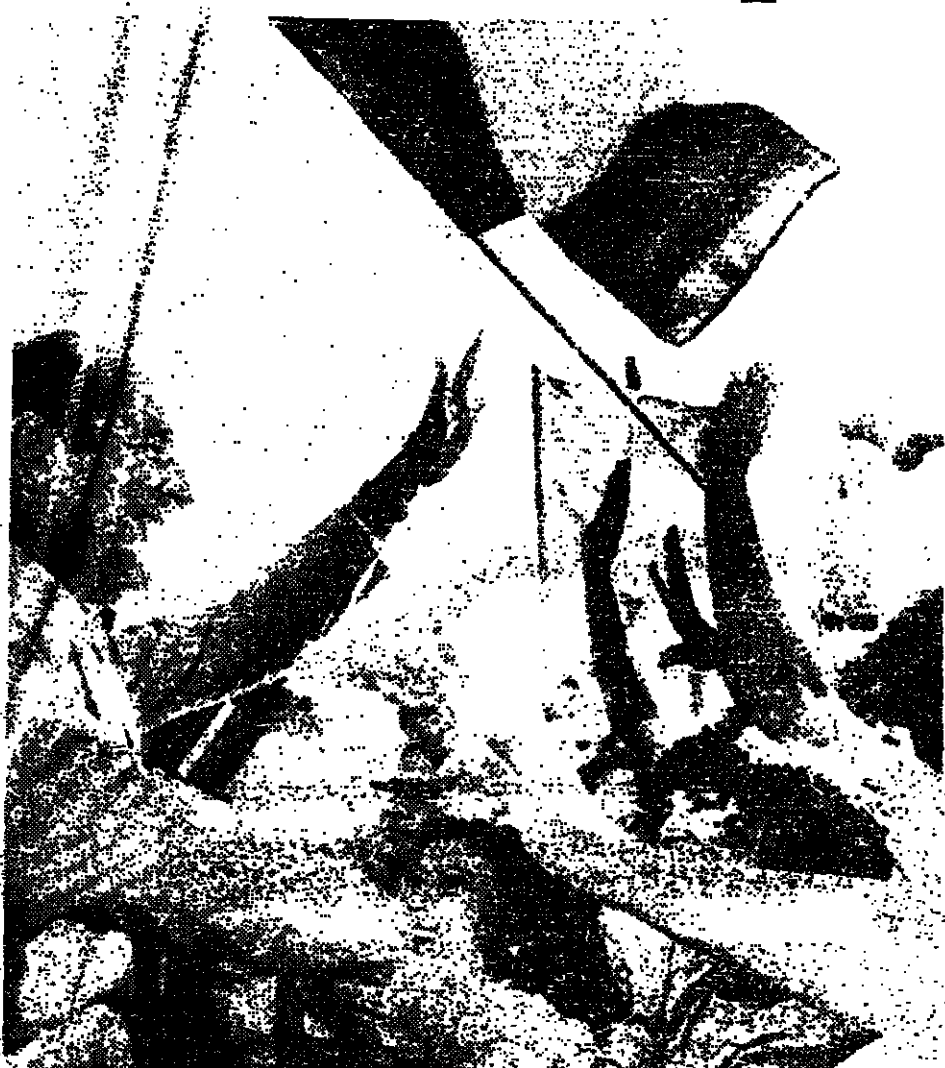
Enroute to New Caledonia, M. Chirac landed on the island of Hao in French Polynesia where the agents, Alain Maffart and Dominique Prieur, are serving the balance of a prison term imposed by a New Zealand court for involvement in the bombings of the Greenpeace flagship in 1985.

The visit, while widely anticipated in France, is bound to cause outrage, both in New Zealand and Australia, which have criticized French insensitivity to regional concerns.

M. Chirac was unrepentant in a closing speech last night to a wildly cheering crowd in the "Places des Cocotiers" (Coconut Square).

"It seemed that all Nouméa was there. The square was draped with tricolours, and the 30,000 crowd, most waving flags, roared with delight as M. Chirac declared: 'New Caledonia is France'."

He said that Sunday's referendum had shown conclusively and democratically that the territory wanted to remain French.



Handing it to the French: M. Jacques Chirac enjoying a warm welcome from some of the thousands of enthusiastic New Caledonia supporters who greeted his arrival at Nouméa.

He accused Kanak leaders who boycotted the referendum of seeking a racial solution that would be "illusory and dangerous".

And in a veiled warning to the main Kanak political umbrella the FNLS led by M.

Jean-Marie Tjibaou, M. Chirac said that although he was in New Caledonia to reopen political dialogue, those who ignored the opportunity might have to wait a long time for it to come again.

He hinted, too, at an ideological backlash, in which right-wing French settlers — the Caldoches — who with other migrant groups make up about 27 per cent of the 145,000 population, might turn their backs on negotiation with the Kanaks.

Late last night there was no indication whether M. Chirac would meet M. Tjibaou before his scheduled departure early today.

But he did foreshadow in his speech changes which would give a measure of autonomy to the territory — changes which the FNLS has stated that it will boycott.

It is believed that under the plan the New Caledonia executive council would gain some administrative powers, although France will continue to manage defence, foreign affairs, justice and finance. At the same time, the boundaries of the four electoral regions are to be redrawn to give the Caldoches and the Kanaks control of two each (at present it is three and one respectively).

But the biggest cheer from the crowd — mainly Caldoches, but also including a sprinkling from the minority communities — came when M. Chirac turned to Australia, which has given support to the independence movement.

The French Prime Minister has criticized Australia over its aboriginal policy before. Last night he said that those nations which talked of the rights of indigenous inhabitants and wanted to give France lessons in coexistence should look at themselves.

The visit here was a quite clear step on M. Chirac's presidential campaign trail, but there could be no mistaking the enthusiasm of his welcome.

On a velvet Pacific afternoon, he was met at the airport by a crowd of about 5,000 which pressed forward to touch his hands and face. A chant of "Chirac, Chirac" went up as he made his way around the perimeter.

Lange turns other cheek on visit to saboteurs

From Richard Long
Wellington

The New Zealand Government, apparently fearful of international reaction from France, bent over backwards yesterday to avoid embarrassing M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, for his visit to the French Rainbow Warrior saboteurs on the South Pacific atoll of Hao.

M. Chirac had a 15-minute meeting with secret service agents Dominique Prieur and Alain Maffart as his plane refuelled on the atoll on the way to New Caledonia. But, while the visit appeared to be against the spirit of the Rainbow Warrior settlement which restricts visitors to military or associated personnel and immediate

family, the New Zealand Government played it down and said they did not believe it contravened the agreement.

Mr. David Lange, the Prime Minister, who earlier this year cautioned M. Gaston Flosse, the French Secretary of State for the South Pacific, against a visit to Hao, declined to comment, but Mr. Russell Marshall, the Foreign Affairs Minister, suggested that M. Chirac could be classified as a military visitor as under the French Constitution he was authorized to command the armed forces.

Mr. Marshall's rationalization does not however tally with M. Chirac's own admission last September that a

visit to the agents on Hao would be a breach of the mediation agreement.

M. Chirac speaking in Paris on September 3, 1986, after returning from his day visit to French Pacific territories, denied he had secretly visited the agents saying: "That would not be in conformity with agreements concluded with New Zealand."

Speaking in Papeete a couple of days earlier, Mr. Chirac said: "I have given my word to New Zealand's Prime Minister that the agreements will be respected and when I make an agreement I stick to it."

M. Prieur and M. Maffart, members of the French secret service, DGSE, were sentenced to ten years' jail for

their part in the July 1985 sabotage of the Greenpeace protest ship, Rainbow Warrior, in Auckland harbor and the death of a crew member.

Under an agreement drawn up by the UN Secretary General, the agents were released into French custody last year, to be confined on Hao for three years. France also paid \$7 million (£4.25 million) in compensation and undertook not to restrict New Zealand's direct access to the European Community.

This access is coming under the spotlight once again, however, with talks about to get under way on butler access after 1988, an aspect not covered by the mediation agreement.

Hungarian MPs join tax critics

By Richard Bassett

The Hungarian Government's plans to arrest the country's economic crisis with sweeping new taxes next year flourished yesterday on a tide of parliamentary criticism in Budapest.

The imposing Gothic-revival Parliament which dominates the Budapest skyline and once resounded to the finest rhetoric in central Europe was this week — for the first time since communist rule was established after the Second World War — the focal point of the country's attentions.

Widespread popular unease over the new tax proposals and live television coverage of the parliamentary proceedings have concentrated the nation's mind on an institution which normally only serves to rubber-stamp the Government's policies.

Although usually only in session for two days, four times a year, Government plans to introduce a value added tax and personal income tax for Hungarians have met with such lively debate that the session is expected to run for at least two days longer than planned.

An unprecedented number of MPs have put their names down to speak and of the 80 on the list only 15 had spoken by the end of yesterday's session.

Of these, several were critical of the new tax proposals. One MP accused the Government of forcing Hungarians to "pay Western taxes even

though they do not earn Western wages."

Since the last parliamentary election was the first to involve multi-choice candidates and since the next parliamentary election is imminent, the desire of many MPs to be seen to be defending the rights of workers in this issue has been heightened.

Nevertheless, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr. Károly Grösz, who presented his "package for national consolidation" on the first day of the Parliament's session, has remained adamant that "tough decisions" must be made. Even the veteran Hungarian party leader, Mr. János Kádár, admitted during a two-hour speech that "mistakes had been made".

Mr. Grösz, who has a reputation for frankness, bluntly acknowledged that he would be prepared to take the consequences for his programme though he would not accept responsibility for decisions taken by others before him.

As the economic situation deteriorates in Hungary, workers doing two, three or even four jobs spend their days rushing from one punishing schedule to another.

If all their incomes are subject to tax and if that is introduced to fuel inflation, then — as one Hungarian paper pointed out this week — "the biological limits of self-exploitation" will have been reached.

Thatcher meeting Italian Premier

'Lucky' Gorla taken for granted

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Signor Giovanni Gorla, who has managed to keep the Italian Government aloof for more than a month, hurries into London today for his first prime ministerial talks with Mrs. Thatcher.

Most analysts in Rome feel she will be impressed by him, because of his diffidence — a quality normally associated with Italian political leaders — and his grasp of detail.

The agenda of the trip — he arrives in the morning with Signor Giulio Andreotti, his Foreign Minister, and departs in the afternoon — includes co-ordination of Gulf taskforce strategies, Italy's disquieting role in becoming a net European Community contributor, and the role of the lira in the European Monetary System.

There is scope for agreement on essentials, but hardly the time, in a swift prelude encounter, to develop a new Anglo-Italian axis. Still, if Mrs. Thatcher really intends to serve "on and on", she will invest her time wisely with Signor Gorla, the youngest leader of Italy since the war, and certain to lead more than one government.

After the collapse in March of Signor Bettino Craxi's administration — a five-party coalition dominated by his Socialists and the Christian Democrats — and months of crisis, Signor Gorla, aged 44, was not given much chance of survival. The cynics spoke of a seaside government to hold the fort during the summer

holidays. Others predicted an autumn showdown. But week after week, the Gorla Government seems to soldier on.

It would be pleasing to be able to say that ordinary Italians are amazed, but the reality is that the football season has started and the Government barely figures in conversation. Signor Gorla is now taken for granted — and

was swallowed without a squeak by the trade unions.

The fact is that Signor Gorla, the ambitious accountant from Asti in Piedmont, is the beneficiary of the bitter feud between Signor Ciriaco De Mita, the Christian Democrat leader, and Signor Craxi.

Signor De Mita is under pressure from his own party — he was battered verbally at an

important summer meeting of Catholic activists in Rimini — and he will have to concentrate on consolidating his own position before next spring's party conference. That puts him out of the running for the time being as an alternative candidate for prime minister.

Signor Craxi is also capable of pulling the rug from under Signor Gorla's feet. But he has to restore the Socialist Party's image as a natural governing force — and that means giving time both to Signor Gorla and



no one is happier about this than the man himself.

He has had some lucky breaks. The summer flooding and landslides in the Italian Alps could have turned out much worse: heavy rains at one point threatened a particularly grave natural disaster. The August siege at Elba's high-security prison ended without bloodshed. A recent package of price rises and austerity measures — including sharp increases in the cost of petrol, cigarettes, train fares and heating oil —

Aquino survives Cabinet crisis

From Humphrey Hawksley
Manila

President Aquino yesterday ended her long-awaited Cabinet reshuffle by accepting the resignation of her controversial Executive Secretary and closest adviser, Mr. Joker Arroyo, which was considered essential if she was to restore her relations with the military and remove the risk of another coup attempt.

Mr. Arroyo campaigned against the armed forces during the rule of former President Marcos, and when he became the most powerful Cabinet minister 19 months ago he made no secret of his continuing distrust for the military.

Making the resignation announcement on television, Mrs. Aquino described Mr. Arroyo as "a man of unwavering fidelity, proven courage, patriotism and true nationalism". She added that he was leaving the Cabinet in the hope of bringing peace and quiet to the Government.

Mr. Arroyo's replacement will be his deputy, Mr. Catalino Macaraig, who was at law school with him.

Mrs. Aquino also announced the resignation of her talented speechwriter and legal counsel, Mr. Teodoro Locsin, but he will remain a consultant.

Mrs. Aquino said that there had been a disinformation campaign against her Administration, but added: "The Government is on top of the situation." All measures were being taken to prevent another military rebellion.

Shortly after her broadcast, the armed forces Chief of Staff, General Fidel Ramos, supported Mrs. Aquino's assurance at a live televised news conference.

He said: "The Philippine Government is in good hands — President Aquino's hands — and the Armed Forces will continue to maintain their protection and security of the Republic."

With just five changes to her 25-member Cabinet, President Aquino appears for the time being to have weathered her most serious political crisis since coming to power.

But there is now concern that Mr. Salvador Laurel, who resigned as Vice-President on Wednesday, will form a right-wing opposition coalition against the President, possibly joining forces with the former Defence Minister, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile.

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All the rhetoric fails to calm Polish fears of a new Prussia

From Our Own Correspondent
Warsaw

Rail travel in Eastern Europe, as elsewhere, is instructive. A single command from an East German border guard is enough to freeze a carriage full of smiling Poles into sepulchral silence.

Only when the train from Berlin to Warsaw passes into Polish territory at Kunowice, where Frederick the Great's Prussian grenadiers were once annihilated by an unlikely combination of Austrians and Russians, does the tension pass.

However fraternal relations are officially between General Jaruzelski's Poland and Herr Erich Honecker's German Democratic Republic, however "inviolate" the East German-Polish frontier, Poles and East Germans instinctively regard each other with caution. The frisson of unease which may

have sent shivers down some spines in Eastern Europe last week, when Herr Honecker paid his first official visit to West Germany, is justifiably stronger in Poland than elsewhere.

The north Germans' distaste for what they perceive as Slav slackness has not disappeared with the rhetoric of international Marxism. To Gdansk Prussian mists which worship order, Poland epitomizes chaos. Moreover, what was once west Prussia is now Poland. To encounter a quietly spoken East German whose parents were born in west Prussia and who, while visiting their former homeland, is dismayed by the lack of Ordnung that now reigns, is to uncover the Prussian psyche.

In the past two years, some of old Prussia has come back, physically and metaphorically, into East German life. The equestrian statue of Frederick the Great has been re-

turned to Unter Den Linden in East Berlin, where the soldier-king's wary smile is frozen now towards goose-stepping guards.

And Bismarck, whose world-publicized belief that "for Germany to survive, we must first destroy Poland", is being re-evaluated by official East German historians.

So it was no surprise that General Jaruzelski was the Eastern Bloc's choice to visit and debrief Herr Honecker this week after his historic tour of West Germany.

Though the Polish leader's departure for East Germany was greeted in the official press here with a hail of praise for the "traditional good relations with East Germany" and "the inviolate frontier between our two socialist states", doubts linger and are even encouraged.

Herr Honecker's visit to West Germany was more closely watched

in the Polish press than in either the Czechoslovak or Hungarian media.

Neither Prague nor Budapest has any cause to rejoice in Herr Honecker's diplomatic triumph, but even the Czechoslovaks, whose country was once home to nearly three million Germans, can regard the possible scenario of a united Germany with some degree of detachment.

But the Polish press has repeatedly pointed out that any reunification of Germany (an exclusively Western revisionist idea) would endanger Poland's western frontiers — in other words, revive Prussia.

It is an argument which the Polish opposition, including members of Solidarity, dismisses. "We have nothing against a unified Germany," one activist of the banned trade union remarked, confident that the existing Polish-German frontier would be

respected by such a state, and ancient Polish fears would recede.

But the state, along with all those in the East who see the order of Europe shaped after the Second World War as a vested interest think otherwise.

By playing on age-old fears of Prussian might, vividly if unwittingly echoed by the sight on East European television screens last week of two German leaders listening to the Haydn hymn which is West Germany's national anthem but once sung with the words "Deutschland über Alles", the official Polish press keeps the Prussian bogey alive.

Anyone who thinks Herr Honecker's visit might mean more than the recognition by the West, long overdue, of East Germany is branded as a dangerous revisionist. Those who fail to see the danger need, after all, only take the train to Berlin.

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Miracles are made of this



As Britain's leading transplant team prepares for its 500th operation, Thomson Prentice reports on its success rate and its driving force: Magdi Yacoub (left)

Derrick Morris remembers only fragments of Saturday February 23, 1980. An ambulance speeding him through London streets, urgency rippling beneath the professional calm of doctors and nurses. An injection, a void.

He awoke to a new day, a new heart, and a precarious future. He was the third person to have a heart transplant at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex. A week earlier, the second such patient had died, soon after the operation. The first would live for only five more weeks.

Today Derrick Morris, now aged 57, is the longest surviving among almost 500 transplant patients at the hospital. He swallows his daily quota of pills, goes to work as foreman at Swansea docks, takes his wife, Beryl, to a fortnight in Yugoslavia, plays bowls and cavorts with his five-year-old grandson.

"I know how lucky I am," he says. "When the doctor offered me the operation I only had a few miserable weeks left, stuck in a hospital bed. Then the doctor said to me: 'Derrick, what do you think about a transplant?' and let me go home for the weekend to talk it over with Beryl and the family."

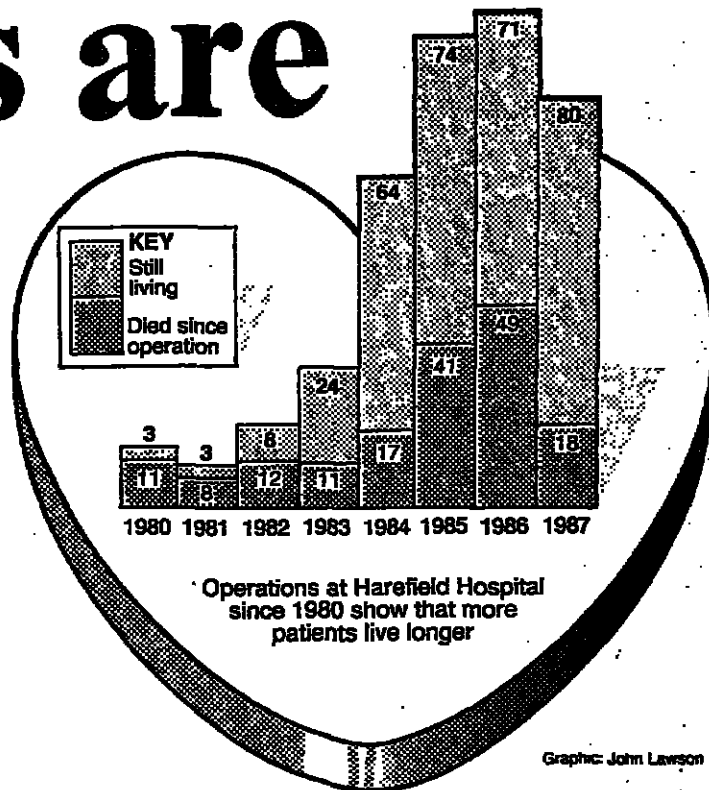
"There wasn't much to talk about, really. It was the only straw left to clutch. The outlook wasn't very good for transplants then, but I was an optimistic sort. There was almost nothing to lose, and an awful lot to gain."

Of 493 other men, women and children who have had heart or heart-lung transplants at Harefield since 1980, 327 are still alive with survival prospects much enhanced since Derrick's day.

Almost 300 similar operations have been carried out at Papworth Hospital, in Cambridgeshire, but Harefield, at least in terms of numbers, has emerged as the country's leading transplant centre.

This is largely due to the phenomenal energy and commitment of Magdi Yacoub, the hospital's charismatic chief surgeon. His advances in surgical skills, post-operative care and the use of anti-rejection drugs mean that many more patients can be treated. Yacoub performed Britain's first combined heart-lung graft at Harefield in December 1983, and has since done a further 103.

Last April he performed the world's first "domino" in which a patient receives a new heart and lungs because the lungs are dis-



Hearts of hope: how Harefield has improved its success rate and (right) Derrick Morris, its longest surviving transplant patient

eased, but the patient's heart is healthy enough to be transplanted into another person. Seventeen such operations have now been carried out at Harefield.

While life expectancy has soared, the costs of heart transplantation have been slashed, from at least £20,000 per patient seven years ago to less than half that now.

Mr Morris spent almost six months in hospital after his operation. Today, most patients are sent home after about three weeks. Harefield this year received £2.3 million in special Government funding for its programme, enough to finance 150 transplants.

They may not all be carried out, largely because of a shortage of donor organs. There are 250 people on the waiting list, and inevitably some will not reach the front of the queue. Each operation

depends on a stranger's tragedy, and beyond that on the courage of grieving relatives to surrender a redundant heart. It needs courage, too, for the medical staff at the "donor" hospital to broach the subject to those next-of-kin and to set the system in motion.

Many doctors find this too difficult, but public response to the concept of organ donation is increasingly generous.

Transplantation remains an emotive issue and Yacoub has had his share of controversy. His operation to give a new, plum-sized heart to a 10-day-old baby, Hollie Roffey, in July 1980, was seen by some in medical circles as pushing the frontiers too far, too fast.

It raised the problem of whether infants might need further transplants as they grew older, and



Photograph: Stephen Jackson

be interviewed or to be involved in personal publicity.

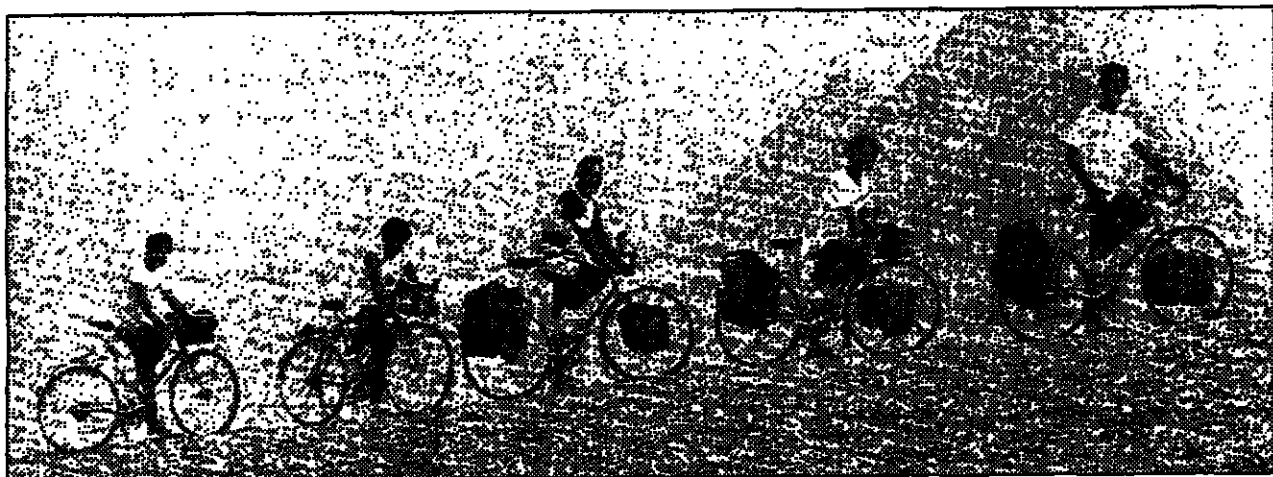
Last December he was once more embroiled in controversy, this time over his use of a heart from an anencephalic baby, that is, one born without a brain. The recipient infant, aged 17 weeks, died two days after the operation.

There were allegations of ethical misconduct — which have not been substantiated — and a renewed debate about the definition of brain-death. The case coincided with the formation of an expert working party to investigate the ethics of removing organs from anencephalic babies. The experts will submit their findings to the Department of Health.

To encourage public support, and raise money towards a new children's unit at Harefield, Yacoub donned his track suit last Sunday and joined the annual "fun run" in the hospital grounds. Many of his former patients attended, some of them children only two or three years old. "Looking at them now reminds us how close to death they once were," said Kelly Boston, the hospital's director of nursing services. "It's easy to forget what a transplant means. These are our little miracles."

Yacoub's run was cut short by a call from the hospital. Suddenly, two donor hearts had become available. He was driven to Heathrow airport, and flown by private plane to another hospital to collect the organs and return with them to Harefield.

Two adjacent operating theatres were made ready. Approximately 10 hours later, having gone from one patient to another, Yacoub and a team of surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses had done their work and could talk of going home. It was long after midnight, and Harefield had two more transplants to its credit. Yesterday, both were said to be "doing well."



The long trail home: The African Trail team cycle past the pyramids in the blazing heat of Egypt on their route to Europe

They rode the world

After a year in the saddle, a marathon charity ride will end this weekend

Hertfordshire, and his wife, Katherine, 26, who were married just before they embarked on one of life's more arduous honeymoons.

The most evocative dispatches came from Andy Hansen, 24, had advertised for another cyclist to join him on a round-the-world trip. Miranda Spitteler, now 26, was the only respondent. Then she had her idea... and the two became co-founders of Four Corners.

Exactly 12 months ago, the first of four teams of cyclists set out from the four corners of the earth to pedal towards Amsterdam, drawn like iron filings across paper. Today, weary, injured and elated, they will arrive and pause before cycling to London on Sunday.

The 17 cyclists, who are mostly British, have travelled 170,000 miles through 42 countries to draw attention to the Third World charity, Intermediate Technology. E.F. Schumacher, author of *Small is Beautiful*, founded the charity in 1965 to help ailing communities support themselves by introducing

The heat hit like a hammer. At noon this was terror

vivid images of African sunrises — blue, orange and violet — and the brutally hot sun bouncing off the roads. "The heat hit like hammer blows. People normally associate fear with darkness, but the killing, blindingly white heat of a desert noon was real terror," he says. Their day had a fixed pattern and when they were not in the saddle they passed the time playing word-games or singing. "The Africans fell over laughing at five figures with snow goggles, hats and wet towels round their heads, singing Ten Green Bottles in the midday sun."

Ahead of them lay adventures which would fit neatly into the *National Geographic* magazine, *Interpol Review* or *Miami Vice*. Thomas Harding, aged 19, from Hampstead, north London, had a range of experiences akin to those of a seasoned mercenary. Harding, who is taking a year off between Westminster School and Cambridge, set out with his three colleagues from La Paz in Bolivia, last October. They pedalled happily into Peru, where his clothes were stolen, and he was arrested after taking pictures of a refinery.

After breezing through Ecuador, the team made it to Mexico City where Harding, the youngest of the Four Corners cyclists, fell off his bike and needed 24 stitches in his head. He pushed valiantly on through the United States before crashing into another bike in New York and damaging a tendon. He was forced home for surgery, but insisted on joining the others in Paris.

The Asian Highway route, starting in Australia and covering 7,250 miles, took the greatest toll. One cyclist, Peter Cogran, dropping out with dysentery. Fortunately, illness did not bother Nick Walker, 28, from Chipperfield,

Those on the Oriental Path set out from Hong Kong and travelled through China to Japan but were forced to fly back over the Soviet Union.

Each cyclist had to find £3,000 for the journey and some, such as Joanna Doran, aged 25, from Mayfield, Sussex, sold her worldly possessions for the chance of churning through the Americas. Ralgh provided the 15-gear bikes and other firms the sleeping equipment.

About 1,200 cyclists are due to join the heroes in Colchester on Sunday for the final leg and another 31 sponsored rides are taking place around the country.

In all, it is hoped to raise about £500,000. "It is extraordinary that they are all nearly back and the project over," says Spitteler. "Let's hope the technology of the bike will help give technology to the Third World, where the need never dies."

Andrew Morgan

THE TIMES SATURDAY

—Portfolio Gold—

At least £20,000 to be won



Open approach: a seller in one of Moscow's fruit and vegetable markets

Russia from the inside

As glasnost finds its feet, Muscovites are becoming less wary of strangers and westerners are no longer as conspicuous. In a new series of correspondents of *The Times* point to the lesser known pleasures of the cities they cover. Tomorrow, Mary Dejevsky uncovers Moscow

Savouring the taste of France
A holiday relived in the kitchen

Master of the baton
The remarkable career of Maazel

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- 4 Chess (6)
- 7 Tummy boats (4)
- 8 Treat with snake (8)
- 9 Initials name (7)
- 11 Ransack (5)
- 12 Guy Fawkes' conspiracy (9,4)
- 15 Principal element (5)
- 16 Fluant (7)
- 20 SE Sicily port (8)
- 21 Island (4)
- 22 Sign up (6)
- 23 Hire (6)

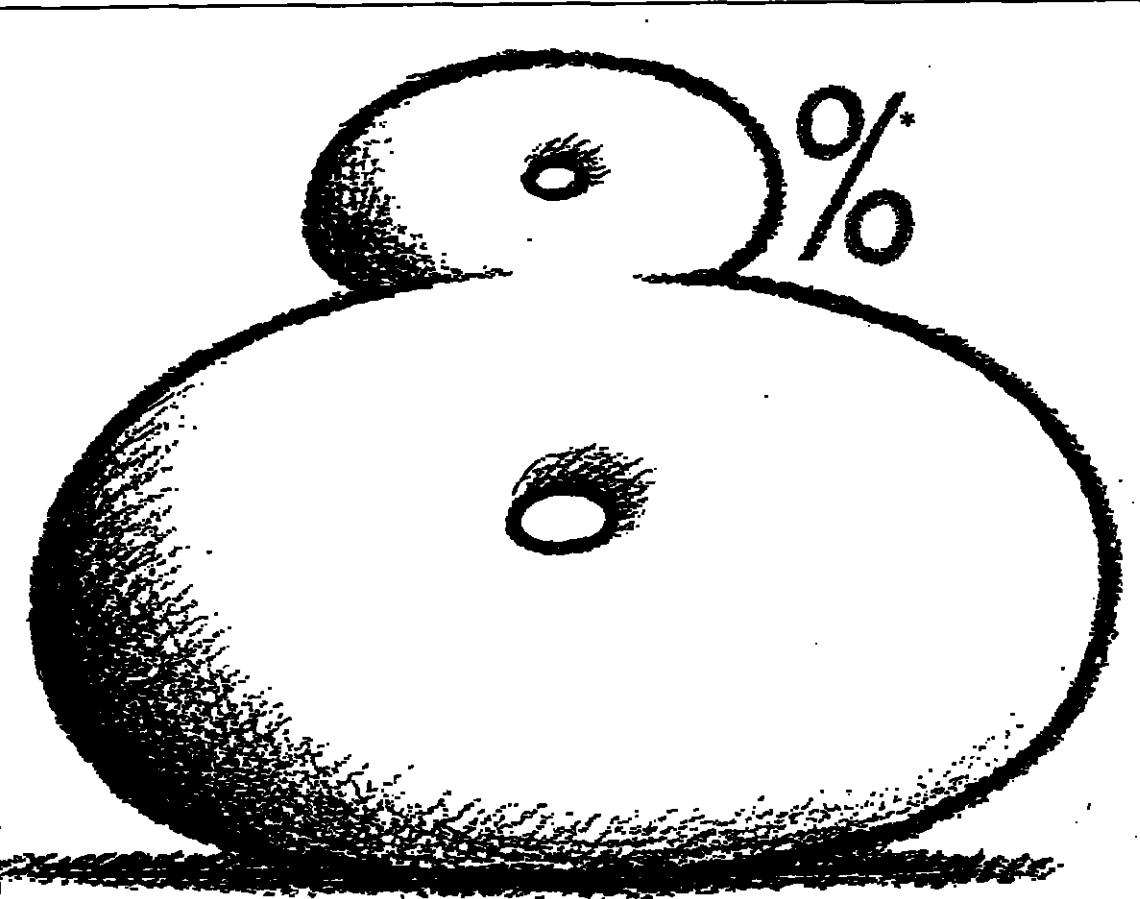
DOWN

- 1 Tibet (7)
- 2 Yellow fossil resin (5)
- 3 Sentimental type (5)
- 4 Weighty book (4)
- 5 High-spirited (7)
- 6 Topic (5)
- 10 Curviness (5)
- 11 Ruske (5)
- 13 Nose opening (7)
- 14 Because of that (7)
- 15 Tack (5)
- 17 Very fat (5)
- 18 Eurasian herb (5)
- 19 Leave (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1363

ACROSS: 1 Armada 4 Peplum 9 Article 10 Raced 11 Peel 12 Oppress 14 Peter de Wynn 18 Boswell 19 Rose 22 Adios 24 Sherbet 25 Eunuch 26 Agony

DOWN: 1 Alas 2 Mitre 3 Décolleté 5 Err 6 Lectern 7 Modest 8 Second-class 11 Pep 13 Powerless 15 Epsilon 16 Tee 17 Abaze 20 Sebe 21 Stun 23 TUC



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Just because you're small, it doesn't mean you can't be powerful.

1. Mighty Mouse

If you thought this first section was going to be a regurgitation of that old chestnut about mice terrifying elephants, you can relax. As it happens, elephants do tend to be afraid that rodents might run up their trunks — but it is highly likely that the humble mouse once played a far more significant role in the history of the world.

Various theories have been put forward to explain why the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago, such as: raids by hunters in flying saucers; a lack of room in Noah's Ark; a lemming-like mass suicide by all species everywhere at the same time; and even 'Paleoweltschmerz' (i.e. the dinosaurs became so disillusioned with their world that they died of sheer boredom).

However, a somewhat more plausible reason for their extinction is that small shrew-like mammals ate their eggs.

Being warm-blooded animals, the 'mice' were able to pursue a nocturnal way of life, whereas the cold-blooded dinosaurs, whose body temperatures depended on the outside environment, could not. The rodents could therefore have devoured their ungarded eggs with impunity, depleting their numbers until they died out completely.

2. Tiny tots

There are many more examples of small but powerful creatures in the modern animal world. In relation to its size, an ordinary house spider can run eight times faster than Ben Johnson. A flea can jump 130 times its own height. An ant can pull a load 300 times its own weight.

Yet perhaps the most impressive example is that of the Falabella horse.

Derived by crossing Shetland ponies with small English Thoroughbreds, Falabellas stand only 24 inches high. However, they run so fast that, over a short distance, they can beat a full-sized racehorse. For their size, they can leap far higher than the leading showjumpers and they are also exceptionally hardy.

These qualities are shared to varying degrees by other miniature breeds. A Shetland has been known to carry a twelve-stone man for forty miles in one day, while a twelve-inch high golden foal recently survived falling down a steep fifteen-foot bank shortly after being born. (Why this foal should then have been called 'Lucky' is a mystery.)

3. The lowest of the low

The twentieth century has certainly had its share of small and belligerent men — Hitler, Mussolini and Alan Ladd to name but three. However, the person who has come the closest to being a twelve-inch ruler is Attila the Hun. He is thought to have been a dwarf.

Also known as 'the scourge of God', Attila was king of the Huns from 434 to 453. For a time he ruled jointly with his elder brother Bleda (who was actually quite a big Bleda by comparison), but he found this rather tiresome and he murdered him in 445.

His hordes then massacred, looted and burned their way across eastern Europe and finally assailed the Roman Empire. He was defeated once — in Gaul in 451 — but he promptly invaded northern Italy and occupied the imperial palace in Milan, where he had all the paintings altered to show the Roman emperor kneeling at his feet instead of vice versa.

Attila died two years later while making love. It is possible that his diminutive stature contributed to his demise — but history unfortunately does not record whether or not he was standing on a box and fell off.

4. Le petit caporal

No one had as great an effect on Europe again until Napoleon Bonaparte came to prominence at the end of the eighteenth century.

In 1795, at the age of 25, he was in charge of the French army of the interior. He then led the French forces in Italy to brilliant victories over the Austrians, became First Consul for life in 1802, set up what was effectively a military dictatorship and had himself crowned Emperor in 1804.

In defeating the Austrians, incidentally, he also defeated the hero of our first section. The Austrian generals became so desperate that they inked a mouse's feet and placed it on a map to see if it would trace out a path to victory. It didn't.

Yet without his wellingtons on, Napoleon was only five feet six inches tall himself. It is true that he looks impressive in our picture, which shows him crossing the Alps in 1800, but this is a highly idealized portrait. (For one thing, he actually crossed on a mule.)

He was certainly very sensitive about his height. On one occasion, he was searching for a book in his library when he finally spotted it on

the top shelf, well out of his reach. The tall Marshal Moncey dutifully stepped forward. "Permit me, sire", he said. "I am higher than Your Majesty." Napoleon was not pleased. "No, Marshal, you are longer," he snapped.

Eventually, of course, Napoleon's reign came to an end, with one of the earliest stages in his downfall being the series of defeats suffered by his fleet at the hands of Lord Nelson — who was only five feet two. No wonder both men wore such large hats.

5. We are not very big

Queen Victoria, sovereign of the United Kingdom from 1837 and Empress of India from 1876, constantly lamented the fact that she was less than five feet tall.

Strangely, her Uncle Leopold seemed to think that she had the power to rectify this if she wished. "I have not been able to ascertain whether you have grown taller lately", he wrote. "I must recommend it strongly".

Victoria did wield considerable political power, however. In 1839, she forced the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, to resign and later dismissed the Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston, for committing the unforgivable sin of taking action without consulting her first.

Her close involvement with policy-making and her desire to have her own way sometimes overstepped the proper bounds of a constitutional monarchy, particularly when William Gladstone was Prime Minister.

"Others but herself may submit to his democratic rule, but not the Queen," she wrote after yet another disagreement.

Yet when the longest reign in British history finally came to an end in 1901, the shortest monarch had restored both dignity and popularity to a crown whose future had looked decidedly precarious at the time of her accession.

"Will she be happy in heaven?" wondered a member of the royal household. "I don't know", replied Edward VII. "She will have to walk behind the angels — and she won't like that".

6. Not short of words

Even Queen Victoria was taller than the eighteenth-century poet Alexander Pope. He was only four feet six inches tall as a result of tuberculosis of the bone and a severely-curved spine.

Despite these handicaps, he dominated the London literary scene for almost thirty years — partly on the strength of his sheer talent (his fame was assured at the age of 23 with his 'Essay on Criticism' (1711)), and partly through his stinging attacks on his contemporaries which earned him the nickname 'The Wicked Wasp of Twickenham'.

His verbal assault on Lord Hervey in the 'Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot' (1735) is a fine example:

"Yet let me flap this bug with gilded wings,
This painted child of dirt, that stinks and stings..."
He clearly relished the power that such scathing wit brought him: "Yes, I am proud; and must be proud, to see Men not afraid of God afraid of me".

Another writer of the day, William Broome, did suggest that it was Pope's size that stopped many people from fighting back: "His littleness is his protection; no man shoots a wren." But others probably realised that the Wasp was at his most wicked when anyone attacked him, as illustrated by the following composition addressed to a lady who had dared to mock his size:

"You know where you did despise
(To-day) my little Eyes,
Little Legs, and little Thighs,
And some things, of little Size,
You know where.
You, tis true, have fine black eyes,
Taper Legs and tempting Thighs,
Yet what more than all we prize
Is a Thing of little Size,
You know where".

7. The Prime Miniature

Two centuries later, David Lloyd George — seen here pointing out his missing inches — was using a similar sharpness with words to achieve power.

It has been argued that he was too obsessed with power for its own sake — "He did not care in which direction the car was travelling, so long as he remained in the driver's seat" (Lord Beaverbrook) — yet the facts remain that he led Britain to victory in the First World War and laid the foundations of the modern welfare state.

Like Pope, Lloyd George once had occasion to cut down someone who made a remark about his size. The chairman of a meeting introduced him thus: "I had expected to find Mr Lloyd George a big man in every sense, but you see for yourselves he is quite small in stature." "In North Wales," came the reply, "we measure a man from his chin up. You evidently measure from his chin down".

Margot Asquith said of him that "he could not see a belt without hitting below it". This was presumably because he could not see much higher.

8. The pocket battleship of the desert

Another small Welshman also played a leading role in the Great War, namely T. E. Lawrence or 'Lawrence of Arabia'. (He actually measured less than five feet six inches, but this tends to be obscured by the fact that the tall Peter O'Toole played him in the David Lean film.)

After joining the Arab army in 1916, the archaeological scholar soon became its chief organising and motivating force. He ran a guerrilla operation against the Turks, blowing up numerous bridges and trains, and in 1917 he captured Aqaba after a 600-mile march.

Further successful actions followed, and when Lawrence returned to Britain as a colonel in 1918, he was awarded the DSO and the Order of the Bath — though he declined both honours as a protest against the breaking of promises made to the Arabs. He then became a close friend and adviser of Winston Churchill, who described him as "one of the greatest beings of our time".

It should be noted, however, that Lawrence's character was full of contradictions — one of which was the need to subject himself to the power of others on occasions. For this reason, he went on to join the lowly ranks of the RAF and the Royal Tank Corps under assumed names — and also paid an admirer to whip him regularly on the buttocks.

9. The Mighty Atom

Astonishingly, there was a third small but powerful Welshman who came to prominence at this time. Jimmy Wilde was only five feet two and weighed just seven stone, yet he was one of the greatest fighters the boxing world has ever known.

He began his career in a fairground booth, where he once performed the incredible feat of knocking over 23 opponents within four hours. All 700 of his challengers in those early days were far heavier than him, but all succumbed to his phenomenal speed and punching power.

Even when he turned professional, Wilde was still conceding as much as two stone to his opponents — but he kept on flattening them. His fame spread, and soon he was known everywhere not only as 'The Mighty Atom', but also as 'The Ghost with the Hammer in his Hands'.

In 1916, at the age of 23, he won the world flyweight title, which he then retained for seven years and four months — a record unequalled to this day.

It is a further mark of Wilde's greatness that he is the only non-American to be rated No. 1 in the 'All-time Greats' lists of 'Ring' magazine — and in 1959 he was elected to the American Hall of Fame.

10. The half-pint PC with the ten-gallon memory

The Japanese have always been good at producing small things, such as miniature trees and Japanese children, and the latest example of their skill is the Epson PC AX2.

No other personal computer packs as much power into as small a space. It would cover only about two-thirds of this page — yet it boasts a 640K random access memory, 20 megabytes of hard disk storage and a 1.2Mb floppy disk drive.

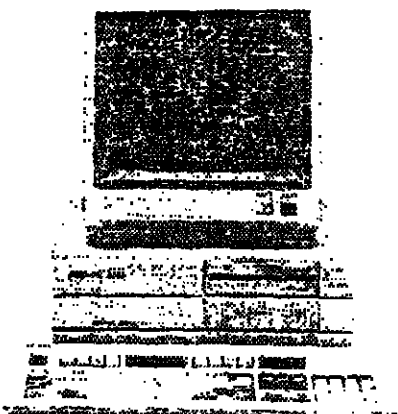
Furthermore, it runs faster than a Falabella, with processing speeds of 10 and 8MHz.

The PC AX2 is fully PC- and AT-compatible. It comes ready to work with any type of monitor and graphics software that you choose, and it can be expanded almost without limit — so there is no danger of it ever becoming extinct.

As you would expect of an Epson, it is so reliable that it could almost be compared to Queen Victoria for longevity.

Yet for all this, the PC AX2 costs only £1699 (RRP exc. VAT), which certainly won't leave you short.

For more information, either: write to Epson (U.K.) Limited, Freeport, Birmingham B37 5BR; call up Prestel *280#; or ring 0800 289622 free of charge. We think you'll find that the PC AX2 can't be beaten — unlike Lawrence of Arabia, of course...



EPSON

THE ARTS

Tourist trials

As television showed last night, history repeatedly rewrites the strategy of foreign invasion. Once it was assumed that, when invading Europe, British football hooligans had to be accompanied by at least 11 blow-dried, medallion-adorned representatives who ran around a stadium until they were over the moon or sick as a parrot. But in *Wish You Were Here* (ITV), John Taylor's *This Week* report from the front in holiday-torn Majorca, the fans were there in force and fine voice despite the European ban on our footballers.

Football fans or no, the mass of drunken young British holidaymakers were certainly sick as parrots — though more

TELEVISION

literally than most players. The camera caught the vomiting in close-up and what one local delightfully termed "typical tresser-down". The behaviour of the British has become so bad that some of the locals have resorted to such drastic action as removing English food from menus, but they seemed remarkably good-natured in their criticism. Even the governor of the prison pointed out that the English are educated, polite, friendly and "good workers" when they are sober, that is. None of them on the film was Japanese television used to invade our homes only if accompanied by thorough lines and grins from Clive James. Channel 4's Japanese season, however, has been giving it to us straight. Some of last night's crop also concerned foreign invasion.

This week the historical documentary *Shogun* glossed over the horrors of the Japanese occupation of Manchuria, though it did have one Chinese scholar complaining that he was forced to learn Japanese. *Singalong Show* made you sympathize with him — though the influence of western music seemed here largely to blame. Not content with having Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, the Japanese in their travel quiz-show *Narabodo* sent a humorous woman reporter in dungarees and straw hat to see someone else's version in Kansas. The question was where to look for the sunflower. One contestant suggested an atypical tresser-down. In fact it had been grown in a field.

Andrew Hislop

Epitaph for an outsider

Hollywood and Rambo have got their own back on David Puttnam.

Ivor Davis reports on the brief affair

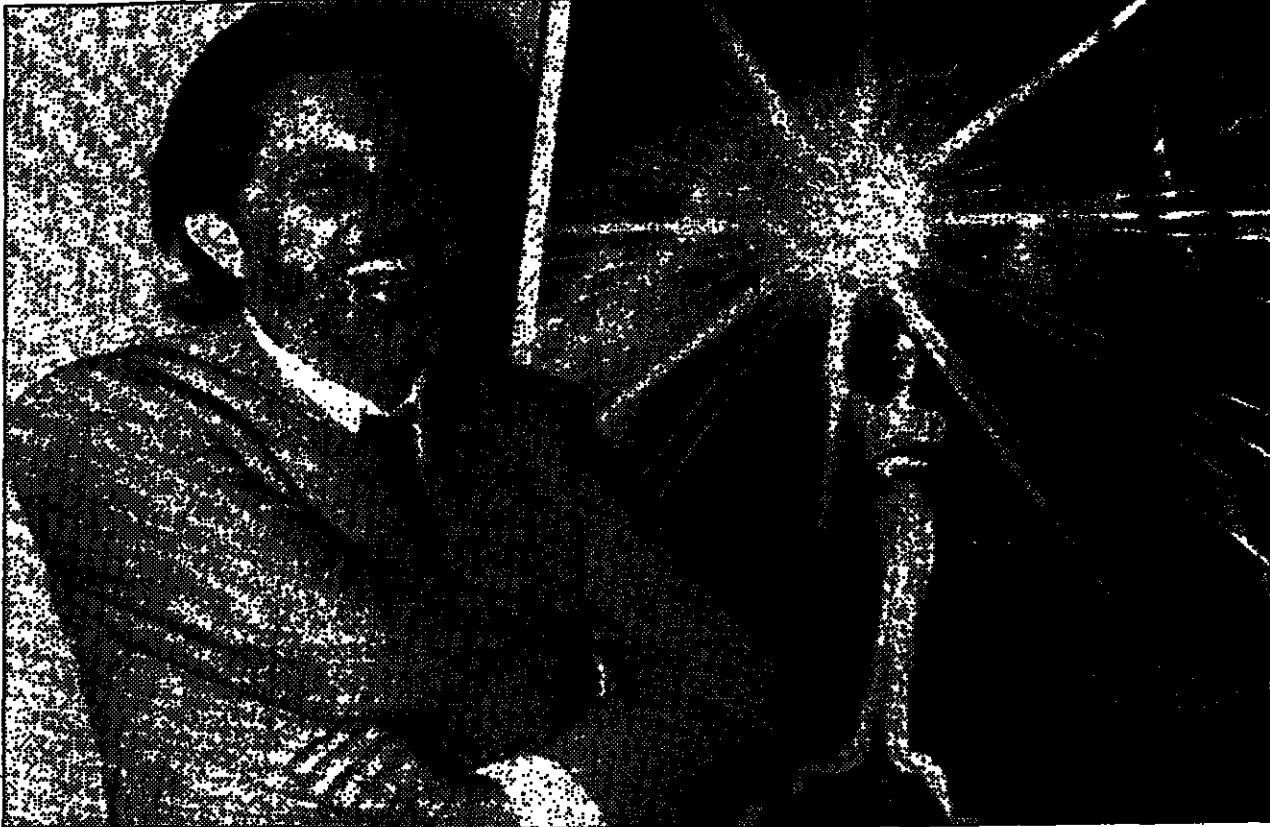
When he became chairman of Columbia Pictures late last year, David Puttnam took with him from London something to hang in the study of his rented Los Angeles house. It was a framed quotation from the movie mogul Darryl Zanuck on the subject of the French director Jean Renoir. "Sure Renoir's got a lot of talent," Zanuck said. "But he's not one of us." Now Zanuck's remark has become Puttnam's own epitaph.

From the moment of his first press conference, Puttnam was the outsider — and he committed the sin, unforgivable in this most parochial of towns, of glorying in the fact. Puttnam was not the first to think he could change Hollywood, and he is unlikely to be the last.

Many observers feel that his decision to call it a day in the face of the new reality at Columbia — Coca Cola's purchase of Tri-Star Pictures and its merger of the two film companies under Tri-Star's head, Victor Kaufman, reflects not so much on Puttnam as on the pathetic state of Hollywood today.

Puttnam learnt that he had to answer to Kaufman — a man whose Tri-Star company has not had a hit film since *Rambo*, a work Puttnam specifically singled out as the kind of deplorable exploitation effort to which he would never be a party — from reading about it in the newspaper. "When your paper boy knows the fate of your company before you," said one Hollywood veteran, "you have to figure that you are not the most coveted member of the team."

● The Almeida Theatre is to present a European tour of Heiner Müller's *Hamlet-machine*, directed by Robert Wilson. The play previews at the Almeida on September 25 and 26 prior to beginning its five-week tour at the Paris Autumn Festival; it returns to the Almeida on November 4. ● Alastair Miles, a 26-year-old bass, has received the 1987 John Christie Award, intended to enable him to travel and study abroad.



Unforgivable sins: David Puttnam, revelling in being the Hollywood outsider after being made chairman of Columbia Pictures

doing the studio a favour by allowing us to sign their cheques," and the directors, who talk art while demanding national-debt salaries.

He let them know from the outset that he did not think anyone was worth \$5 million, that a director's enthusiasm for his film should be such that he would be prepared to do it for nothing if necessary, and that the studio, not the agents, should be putting the deals together.

The fact that Puttnam sometimes stated his views with the self-righteousness of Jeremiah confronting the children of Israel, made his opinions even more difficult for the Hollywood veterans to swallow.

Puttnam's fate was probably inevitable, given his very different way of looking at the business of film-making from that currently operating in today's Hollywood, where a year's production of absolute disasters can be salvaged by just one blockbuster.

Puttnam's way, by contrast, is to make a number of modestly budgeted films that all make a fair profit, thereby eliminating the need for blockbusters. He has apparently had some difficulty in getting that simple idea across.

He began in Hollywood at a decided disadvantage. Columbia was at the bottom of the pile. *Ishtar*, a comedy starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and costing more

than \$40 million, was virtually a complete write-off and the first film to be shown under Puttnam's aegis were hurried efforts.

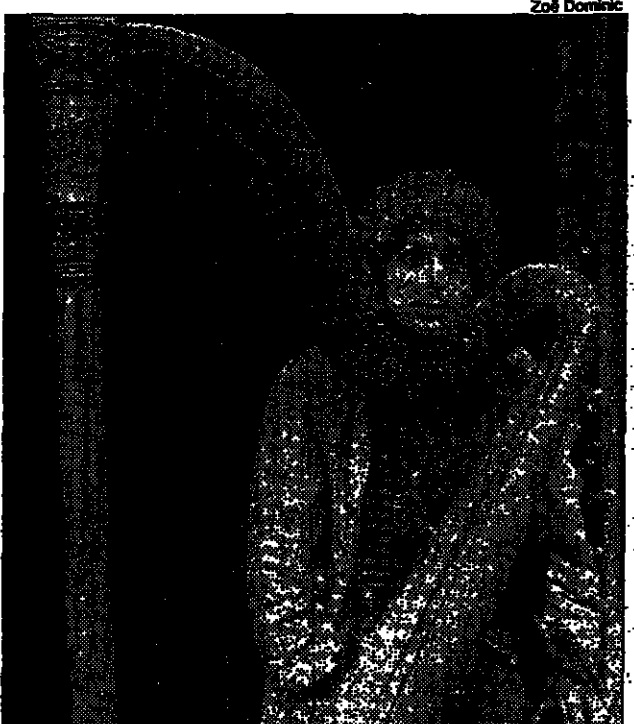
"You've got to remember," he explained a few days ago, "that all those pictures put into production for autumn 1987 and spring 1988 were done in a terrible hurry because there really wasn't anything on the slate when I came in."

It would only be at the end of 1988 that the public would see the films "on which I was really able to ponder and think. I could even make a very good case that I shouldn't be judged until spring of '89." By that time Puttnam will be a faint, slightly uncomfortable memory.

Matchlessly Marxian magic

THEATRE

Groucho:
A Life in Revue
Comedy



Les Marsden as Harpo: bravura reproductions of harp solos buzz-saw voice, the timing, inflections and physical routines so accurate and rooted in character as to surpass the usual limits of impersonation. Whatever the old vaudeville sketch or re-enacted quiz programme, the gags all take their place in a context of advancing age; the wisecracks become sadder and more defensive; gleeful assaults on public institutions turn to insults against masochistic television victims; and the manic figure shrivels into a bowed, octogenarian in a beret, haltingly responding to an interviewer's questions in an ultimate expression of melancholy and comic defiance. If there is a vaudeville equivalent of Beethoven's last quartet, this is it.

The Marx Brothers were a vaudeville team whom we know only through their films; and another strength of Arthur Marx's production is that, it gives some idea of what they were like live. The Brothers were inveterate flirts with the camera. Now we have

Groucho squelching laughs ("You're a little ahead of me there. Try and keep time with the jokes, will you?"), picking out victims and turning from the stammering Mrs. Rittenhouse to extend his mule noises to the customers. He is not alone in this.

Les Marsden, who amazingly doubles as Chico and Harpo (including bravura reproductions of their piano and harp solos) likewise keeps up eye-contact with the customers, as though delivering open invitations to a floating crap-game in the basement, or descending on the stalls to snare a bird, like a retriever let off the lead.

Marquette Lowell plays all the girls from a gas-sucking ingenue and the glittering expenses of Margaret Dumont to — most movingly — the "humorous" wives who were served wisecracks instead of affection. "Why," Groucho asks, "does she need a new dress? I never take her anywhere."

The script moves with great agility through these lives, concentrating on vaudeville or unfamiliar material rather than the famous movie sequences (though the "sunny clause" gets a spirited recap) and keeping a fine balance between the sufferings of the Brothers and the comedy with which they held it matchlessly at bay.

Irving Wardle

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Skulduggery
Old Red Lion

North of the border this grand old word is said to mean "sturdy talk", whereas in England it describes malpractices of an underhand sort; but both are to the fore in this sharp, powerful play by Philip Davis, sharply and powerfully directed by himself.

His four East End school-leavers inhabit a grabby world of postwar estates, where rubbish bags pile up against stained walls. Sweeney (a performance of bowstring tension)

With a five-piece band and four backing singers ranged atop a revolving stage, set in the centre of the hall, Wonder started and finished with new songs. "It's Growing" and "Skeletons" were both rough-

ROCK

Stevie Wonder
NEC, Birmingham

hewn slabs of exhilarating heavy funk, the kind of thing that reminded one that this was the soul performer who hired Jeff Beck to play guitar on *Talking Book* a decade before Eddie Van Halen turned up on "Beat It".

Despite such wide-ranging credibility, Wonder's recorded work, especially his more recent material, gives scant indication of the *gratias* of

his live show. Whether pumping up swift, vamped chords on his clavinet, or swelling out the sound with the technological miracle of the Synclavier keyboard, his precision and pedal-on-the-floor attack were breathtaking throughout a catalogue of classics dealt like aces from a permanently loaded deck: "Higher Ground", "Living for the City", "Superstition", "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours", "I Was Made to Love Her", "Sir Duke" among many others.

He smoothly switched gear for "You are the Sunshine of My Life" and an unapologetic reading of "I Just Called to

Say I Love You", his drippiest song and also his only UK No 1, before being joined by Edwin Starr for a duet of "Part Time Lover", which led to a noticeably impromptu performance of "War".

Unusually these days, Wonder has not been touring to promote either a new album or a soft drink and, while a cynic would point to the price of the tickets, the relaxed ebb and flow of the programme, combined with the taut authority of the playing, seemed to indicate an enjoyment of performing that was its own reward, not bad at all.

David Sinclair

Designs of hope

DANCE

Collaboration V
Riverside

This Rambert workshop programme is called *Collaboration V*; belatedly continuing a series begun 20 years ago. Then, world-be choreographers tried out works with designs and in some cases music by students. Now professional artists and musicians have created designs and scores for some of the Rambert works. But the dances to existing music or no music, and mostly those not relying on design, came off best.

Gary Lambert's solo to a poem by Linton Kwesi Johnson showed the best use of movement. Nicholas Wilson's percussion score for Catherine Price was jolly, and Peter Muir made an effective setting of words by Frances Curry to accompany her dances, but in neither case was the combination of sound and movement notable.

Among the designers, Anish Kapoor made a positive contribution with his purple backcloth throwing a suffused glow on the dancers. This was for Amanda Britton's *The Second Construction*, set to John Cage's percussion score, an attractive piece with gamelan overtones. Britton picked up the eastern influences rewardingly in arm movements for her three dancers.

Richard Deacon's giant coloured structures for Lucy Bethune looked as purposeless after being manipulated, walked through and climbed under as they did at first sight. John Murphy's abstractions for Mark Baldwin were too reticent. David Ward's pillars with lights inside them made a striking though not particularly original setting for Sara Matthews, but she made little of them in her choreography.

John Percival

Pete Jones and Phil McIntyre present

Europe's

FRIDAY PAGE

Countess spionage

Agent 527, codenamed Tiger, American model Aline Griffiths became the toast of wartime Madrid — and enslaved a count.
Catherine Bennett unfolds Tiger's tale

... came in deep gasps but I ... We were both lying on the ... his body partly on top of ... he was still in my hand. He ... felt in my hand and limp ... killed him? I couldn't take the ... find out.

... 43 years after this in- ... incident, in which she almost ... lost her evening sandals, the ... Countess of Romanones ... thinks the man probably sur- ... her bosses at the Office of ... Services (OSS), the wartime ... or of the CIA, later assured ... it her assailant had been paid ... now worked for the same side. ... knows what the truth is?" said ... unless, sighing lightly, in a ... of the Savoy this week. "There ... lot of things an agent never ... And with that, Aline, Count- ... Romanones, confounded any ... attempt to verify the sensa- ... contents of her wartime mem- ... The Spy Who Was Red, in which ... display self-conscious glee in ... own duplicity. Why should one ... a word from any of them, ... as fragrant as the countess? ... she insists that all her thrill- ... is — which rush from lock- ... in palaces, to incarceration in ... jail, in a rousing narrative ... slows down only for the regu- ... ery of corpses — are absolutely ... "It is very, very accurate," she ... "I was very careful about that."

... precisely to reassure the ... ing that the book carries the ... guarantee of honest es- ... an approving line from the ... William Casey, once the director ... CIA, formerly of the OSS. "Her ... reflects sensitively and ... the clandestine intrigue ... of the war years (sic) that ... the struggle between the ... services of the allied and ... and the atmosphere and ... in wartime Spain."

... I want to keep Casey in mind ... you meet the countess, whose ... naturally youthful appearance

in her mid-sixties, exotic social status and delicate name dropping — "the Duke of Windsor once said to me ... Deborah Kerr is a dear friend ... when we stayed with the Rothschilds" — all suggest some laughable cover devised by a romantic fool in the CIA.

In 1943 Aline Griffiths, then 20 and a house model for Hattie Carnegie, an American haute couture house, had unwittingly advertised her availability to the OSS at a chance meeting at a dinner with a recruiting officer, to whom she confided her longing for active service. Within weeks she was Agent 527, codenamed Tiger, learning to kill, pick pockets and construct a deadly weapon out of a rolled-up newspaper, at an OSS school in Virginia nicknamed The Farm.

A little regrettably, the countess says she has since forgotten most of these skills: that the newspaper had never worked in the first place. She recently failed to break a safe to which she had lost the key, although the shooting is useful during the partridge season at her palace in Estremadura.

According to the book, Tiger arrived in Spain on New Year's Eve, on a mission to discover Himmler's secret agent. Her main contact, Top Hat, told her: "I hope you have a wardrobe to meet the demands of Madrid's social life. If not, I recommend a visit to Balenciaga."

While the allies were planning D-Day, Tiger was posing as a clerk at the American Oil Mission in Madrid, decoding Morse during the day, and dancing by night in clubs patronized by her elegant suspects. "I do have a good memory," the countess says of her staggering powers of recall. "And if you remember people well, when you start writing it comes back very clearly." She had some notes, and for the rest she jotted her memory with conversations with her Spanish family and friends — who may be



An honourable, patriotic profession: Aline, Countess of Romanones

surprised to find that their dazzling young guest spent her parties rifling through the bedrooms, while they watched flamenco in the salon. "Of course I felt terrible about that," she admits. "They were inviting me, and I was going there to discover if they were Nazi agents." But she appears more troubled by the breach of etiquette than the moral dilemmas of espionage. "I think it is an honourable profession, the same as any other civil servant. I always felt it was a patriotic cause one was contributing to."

The countess's devotion to duty and undoubted bravery were such that she continued spying in France and Switzerland even after the war was over, and was about to find a new cover in Czechoslovakia, when Count Luis Romanones, Grandee of Spain, finally proposed. She had three sons, redecorated a palace, wrote a little — and acquired a taste for lecturing which now keeps her in America half the year, as a hired speaker on international espionage, subversion and the foreign affairs of the United States.

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The Spy Who Was Red is published by Bloomsbury, £12.95.

Proportional miss representation

I had never read a copy of *The Star* or *Sunday Sport* until all this fuss surfaced over the editorial policies of *The Star*'s new editor, Mike Gabbert. In fact, it was Channel 4's *What The Papers Say* that alerted me to how serious the issue was.

A rather stern looking lady called Yvonne Roberts, glasses firmly in place and censure in every dipthong, was clearly very upset, Gabbert, she said, had decreed that *The Star* was going to show two pairs of the biggest bosoms available on pages three and seven. Less than a week into this new policy, she explained, and already the paper was "busting" out with stories that from Ms Roberts's point-of-view were clearly a threat to real journalism.

There was, for example, the two-page photostory called "Big Is Boobifull — Gynslip Girls Are Busting Out!" The story featured 17-year-old Sally Ann with and without her regulation school blouse and tie, and attributed her excellent development to PT and healthier young appetites. I thought Sally Ann was rather a pretty girl if a bit sway-backed, and was relieved to read that some schools were ordering bigger desks so that "outstanding" girls wouldn't feel the pinch.

After the programme I decided to take a look at the two sister tabloids and so I rang up Mike Gabbert to see what he had to say. He was ready for all questions because, as he explained, he is an outspoken man who says what's on his mind. He denied all the quotes attributed to him and let me in on his new editorial thrust. It sounded as if *The Star* would soon be giving the *Spectator* and *The Salisbury Review* a run for their money.

"I've put in the first political column *The Star* has ever had," Gabbert said. He also drew my attention to the new foreign affairs column every Monday, which I had overlooked due to its headline "The Pope knocks nookie". These were ominous signs I thought, and I put on my



BARBARA AMIEL

glasses just like Ms Roberts and sat down with a week's worth of *Stars*.

Conclusions were soon reached. The bosoms in *The Star* had become larger and more numerous in the short reign of Gabbert. The poses of the girls leaned heavily on what every female-of-the-species knows: that if you grasp your shoulder at the collar bone with each hand and push your elbows hard

We are fascinated by other women's proportions. We study each other like hawks

against your bust, it will make even the tiniest bosom look substantial. When 15-year-old Natalie Banus (40-23-34) does it — "Mum you should be ashamed" was *The Star* headline next to yet another picture of Miss Banus's mammaries — the results really are spectacular.

What puzzled me was why anyone should be outraged by Gabbert, who is merely proving the extraordinary cleverness of the Great Creator in giving us all secondary sexual characteristics like breasts. The whole point, after all, of secondary sexual characteristics is that they are there. The more easily discernible — the bigger and more pronounced they are — the more attractive

they are. Some monkeys, I understand, have red behinds on this principle.

Of course there are some men of highly jaded tastes, of either real or pretended refinement, who want to go against the Creator's plan. These men in their perversity tend to assert that the less noticeable a female's curves are the more enticing they become. They are the sort of chaps who if they were monkeys would like pale pink bottoms. But Mike Gabbert is clearly not such a man and has spotted the obvious link between nature's plan and circulation: large secondary sexual characteristics attract.

Actually women have always understood this. We are absolutely fascinated with other women's proportions. A major part of a woman's life centres around being sexually attractive and we study each other like hawks to see how it is done. Some women do mutter grimly when they see anything that has to do with sex on display even as they enlarge their lips with lipstick — another secondary sexual characteristic. Others frown at large breasts because of their own more modest endowment. Some women are against it because they like to think that they can attract without relying on secondary sexual characteristics, and can use instead their witty conversation. To my mind this is a little human vanity that generally turns out to be the hubris before their man falls for his Cleopatra.

Anyway, I don't think Gabbert's tastes have much to do with journalism or pose much threat to it. I suppose if a car dealer put four pairs of Samantha Fox's best parts in the window he would sell more cars, but this would have nothing to do with automotive engineering. The Gabbert play only shows that some editors are smart businessmen and that the attraction of human secondary sexual characteristics remains firm — which is why, having seen what this column was about, you have read it to the end.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Looking for a berth?

Hardly has the Department of Environment begun the search for the next head of the London Docklands Development Corporation than it finds itself in difficulty. Both David Edmunds, the Civil Service-trained chief executive of the Housing Corporation, and Noel Hepworth, the trusty figure who runs the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and who is looking for a move, have spurned approaches to apply for the job. Civil servants spent sleepless nights this summer when the possible collapse of the Canary Wharf deal threatened to halt the whole docklands regeneration project. The department's top man, Sir Terry Heiser (himself an East End lad), had to work on the issue full time. Now, with Reg Ward conveniently stepping down as LDDC chief executive, the DoE is anxious to appoint someone it can control but who has sufficient clout for the supposedly great success scheme.

Sticking point



Edwina Currie, now dashing round Scandinavia on a fact-finding tour, may be silenced for once. The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has produced a poster of her with a piece of sticking plaster covering her mouth. The junior health minister is addressing society members on advertising and health later this month. With 250 publicity posters to go to London agencies, the IPA is boasting that each poster must be applied by hand. I bet.

What has happened to the intensely supportive Judge Steel? She has not been appearing at her husband's side at Harrogate. In fact she has been at home preparing a festival of badlands and legends — otherwise known, according to one wag, as next year's SDP conference.

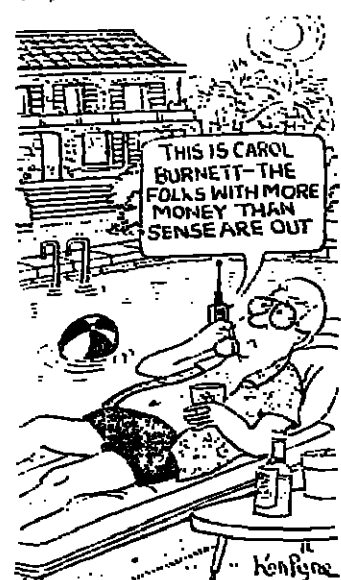
Fawning

The newly-created British branch of the International Freedom Foundation, a right-wing American pressure group, plans to produce a mystery speaker to address a fringe meeting at next month's Tory conference. Though Mark Gordon, the group's director here, won't reveal the guest's identity, I understand the traitor Tory eyes may well be none other than Oliver North's tousled-haired shredder Fawn Hall.

Saga, the send-a-granny-abroad people, are advertising for someone to write brochures for their over-seas holidays. One of the stipulations for applicants: "Age 21 to 30".

Carol service

The rich are different from us — they spend money more stupidly. The showbiz magazine *Curve* reports that at the annual celebrity "Impossible Dreams" auction



held for the community service fund at Marha's Vineyard in the US, someone paid \$1,000 for comedian Carol Burnett to record two personalized messages for their answering phone.

Still looking

Hope springs eternal for Ali Dubs, the defeated Labour MP for Battersea, who signed on the dotted line Monday after election day. He has applications in for two top charity jobs. Today he will hear if he is on the shortlist for the vacant director's seat at the Child Poverty Action Group. And on Saturday he is attending an interview at War on Want for the £20,000-a-year job shortly to be vacated by Glasgow Hillhead MP George Galloway. If successful he will join a shortlist which disgruntled members of WoW's council and staff say is little more than a formality preceding the appointment of Bill Gilby, Galloway's former colleague on the Scottish Labour Party national executive.

PHS

When silence is abused

by Nicholas Fairbairn

Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is absolutely correct to call for the abolition of the right to silence of an accused person when charged by the police. Why he is correct is surprisingly little understood and lies in the historical development of the criminal law. The right once had an important purpose, but is now an anomaly.

In medieval times it was assumed in the law of Scotland, and I presume in the law of England, that all confessions were obtained by torture. Therefore, to protect accused persons from giving "confessions" in court, the accused was forbidden to give evidence lest he "confessed" in the witness box in order to relieve his torture.

Justice remained pretty rough until the introduction of the police force in the 19th century. As civilisation proceeded, it dawned on the contemporary legislators that the accused should no longer be forbidden to give evidence for his own protection, because he was now arrested and investigated by a disciplined, controlled and accountable public force from whom tortured confessions were not to be presumed. And in any event there were many circumstances in which to deny the accused the right to give his account of events might, and did, cause a miscarriage of justice.

Such is illustrated by a case of infanticide defended by F.E. Smith in which the accused mother, bound by the law to silence, was said by a witness to have made the inquiry "How could I kill my baby?", suggesting intent. It was left to her counsel to ask if she had not asked the same question as a matter of horror and protest after her child's death. "How could I kill my baby?" Although her counsel lost the case her explanation at first hand might have won it.

So in Scotland, at the end of the 19th century, the accused was given the right to give evidence. A civilised advance which, as so often, was quickly taken up in England.

When an accused was forbidden to give evidence he of course had to be cautioned, when charged, that he need say nothing but that anything he did say might be used in evidence, exclusively because he would have no opportunity to admit, deny, explain or expand what he said, as in the F.E. Smith case. Once the entitlement to give evidence was granted the caution became superfluous. However, like so many conventions whose origins are forgotten, the caution and the right to silence remained. The contemporary civil libertar-

ian defence of the right to silence is that the innocent may falsely confess in the loneliness of the police station surrounded by trained and sceptical detectives. There is a misunderstanding about the presumption of innocence here. Although that is the point from which the judge and jury must start, the police and the prosecutor cannot or they could never arrest, interrogate or charge anyone. Equally, witnesses could never give evidence of guilt.

The best protection for the innocent is that all answers to a charge should be made before a magistrate and the accused should be required to give his spontaneous explanation or defence, or protest his innocence, then and there before he has a chance, if he is guilty, to plot his acquittal with the help of his legal advisers.

My suggested reform would also have the inestimable benefit of removing the frequent slur on the police of "verbal" because the accused on reflection realises the folly of his impetuous honesty and admissions.

As Solicitor-General for Scotland I attempted to reintroduce the hearing before a court of the charge, reply and judicial examination of the accused which was the law of Scotland until 1926 and

then fell unfortunately into desuetude. I hope that I have proffered and explained the folly of the continuance of the right to silence in response to the charge, but what of the right to silence in court, which there seems to be no question of removing?

The one person in total knowledge of what has happened is the accused. He knows what he did or did not do and whether he felt justified in doing it. The witnesses only know bits and pieces. Yet while the accused has a right to draw a veil over his total knowledge lest he incriminates himself, no witness is exempt, with very limited exception such as husband and wife, from giving evidence. Witnesses can therefore incriminate their lover, child, benefactor or dearest friend.

Why should such a moral burden be put upon the hapless innocents and not upon the devious guilty? Why should busy men and women be forced to come to court and sit for hours waiting to be called, or not to be called, to give evidence in, say, a manslaughter case following a road accident when the accused can frustrate justice by taking advantage of the inadequacy of the evidence that he was the driver by remaining silent?

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The author is Conservative MP for Perth and Kinross.

Mary Dejevsky on Moscow's more relaxed line on Jewish emigration

Alexei Magarik, who was released from a Soviet labour camp this week, was the last of the "prisoners of Zion" — people who, Soviet Jews and their supporters believe, were imprisoned solely because they insisted on the right to preserve their identity, practise their religion and live in Israel.

Magarik's release follows the granting last week of exit visas to a group of long-term refuseniks, including Iosif Begun and the Brailovsky family, and has aroused hope among Soviet Jewish activists that their time of waiting may be drawing to an end.

To meet Soviet refuseniks is to be introduced to a way of life with its own — non-Soviet — priorities and its own vocabulary. They believe they are pawns in the superpower conflict; one of the few things the Soviet Union has that the West wants and can therefore be traded.

"Permission" means only one thing: permission to emigrate; its opposite is "refusal", a sad state in which people may live for years. "Home" means Israel. "The younger generation" means those Jews in their teens and early twenties who were born into refusenik families, and "they" means the faceless and at times malicious bureaucrats who have the power to grant or refuse a visa.

Coming to terms with a world in which Israel might become a reality has galvanised Jewish groups into new activity, but it has also caused them to reassess their methods. They can no longer believe they have nothing to lose: if even some of the hardest cases are being allowed to leave, they might eventually see Israel. Like other minority groups in the Soviet Union, the Jews regard *glasnost* as a potential trap, but also as an opportunity. They have a sense that more than ever fortune helps those who help themselves.

From being essentially secret organizations operating with support from abroad, many groups now think they can achieve something for themselves. Pavel Abramovich, a refusenik of more than 10 years, and Vladimir Prestin (one of those given permission to leave last week) are planning a national Jewish seminar for late November. They have informed the authorities — to conform to the regulations — and are optimistic that it will go ahead. The only other national seminar was held 12 years ago, after the signing of the Helsinki agreement.

A group of women refuseniks campaigning for the right to emigrate was set up in Moscow a year ago. They meet regularly, have with similar groups in other cities, and aim to attract the attention of the authorities in an organized and considered way.

Next month they are planning a series of seminars on the history of Jews in the Soviet Union, in connection with the 70th anniversary of the October revolution. Earlier this year they held a day's hunger strike, co-ordinated across



the Soviet Union, and a children's day, when groups of separated parents and children met in Moscow apartments. The hunger strike provoked an attack in the official press — a development they regarded as a triumph: for the first time the Soviet public was told of the refusenik problem.

Still, the refuseniks are isolated. Would-be emigrants are cast out of the mainstream of Soviet society. Although most have a higher education, they lose their professional jobs the day they apply. A few, very few, manage through determination and the kindness of others to keep their jobs, but the great majority are obliged to take low-paid, low-status work.

Their predicament, and the relative poverty it brings, presents special difficulties for those with young children. They teach them to accept two parallel truths: what they are told about Israel at school (to pass examinations) and what they hear at home. They discourage their children from transferring their home life to school: drawing the Star of David, for instance, or letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

To some extent the problem of Jewish parents is similar to that faced by parents from the traditional Russian intelligentsia where the values of honesty and truth which prevail at home conflict with the Marxism-Leninism taught at school. But the barely suppressed anti-Semitism in much of Russian society makes



the risks of confusing home and school much greater. *Glasnost* has not yet brought tolerance. Nor has it simplified the procedures of emigration.

The Khomyansky family received exit visas in August. Before the postcard arrived from the visa office, Ilana Khomyanskaya said she had never understood why people who had been given permission did not go around permanently smiling. Afterwards, she did. There is so much to do before leaving. They have to collect documents from their last place of work, birth certificates, marriage certificates and statements from dependent relatives, renouncing all financial claims.

They have to obtain a transit visa for Vienna and a visa for Israel from the Dutch embassy, which represents Israel in the USSR. When, as now, many visas have been granted there are long queues everywhere. A whole day can be spent obtaining tickets. Belongings have to be loaded, inspected and valued by customs, another whole day's procedure, which has to be booked in advance.

Objects of art have to be valued and cleared by a museum (one inspection day a week); a list of books has to be submitted to the Lenin library for clearance. In both cases, pre-1949 items may not be taken out; tax is payable on valuables and items of foreign origin. Only 90 roubles, about £90, per person may be exchanged for hard currency. After emigrants

have paid the exit visa fee of 700 roubles, freight charges, travel tickets, taxes on valuables — and bribes — they are likely to have little money left.

The Soviet bureaucracy is not attuned to mass emigration. Procedures are clumsy, the departments uncoordinated. The visa office remains untouched by *perestroika*. The customs service, despite recent admissions of its shortcomings, is still ponderous and corrupt. No one has a definitive version of the regulations; no one can explain why "yes" one day, and another day "no".

Once the procedures have been completed, Jews face a further dilemma: whether to go to Israel or somewhere else — probably to the United States. Last year, two thirds chose the US. The issue has divided the refusenik community. Should they insist that Jews go to Israel as their rightful homeland and the chief reason they have been granted exit visas, or should they go where they believe their future will be brightest?

The Soviet authorities have seized on the division. The new emigration regulations allow emigration for family reunification, which could, in principle, be anywhere. Those who go to the US have the advantage that they can, once they receive US citizenship, return to the Soviet Union. Those in Israel cannot, so long as there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

At present, it is hard to determine whether the Soviet authorities really want to settle the "Jewish problem" by allowing freer emigration, or whether they are simply trying to remove the issue from the international agenda by permitting only the most prominent and the most vociferous campaigners to leave and dividing those who remain. Jewish activists in Moscow feel the uncertainty keenly. If they knew which interpretation was correct, they would be happier. As it is, they feel their luck could run out at any moment.

Border, Grampian and Ulster could be put at risk because of the reduction in advertising revenue. For those reasons David McCall, chief executive of Anglia and chairman of the ITCA, is expected to advocate at the Prime Minister's broadcasting seminar on Monday the advantages of starting a separately owned fifth channel in 1993, funded by advertising.

In that way, the independent television companies believe, the advertisers would gain the airtime competition they have sought for so long and the political demands to break up the existing monopoly would be satisfied.

The C4 board has adopted a classic Yes, Minister pose. While concluding unanimously that it was content with the existing funding system, it added that it was prepared to consider alternative structures "on condition that any new arrangements ensured the maintenance of the existing remit".

But with leading figures such as Justin Dukes, C4's managing director, insisting that the channel could survive alone within its existing remit, and Isaacs predicting the likelihood of government legislation to bring about the change, the chances of C4 remaining untouched by Mrs Thatcher's broadcasting revolution look increasingly remote.

Richard Evans
Media Editor

John Grigg

This deprived south...

In a recent issue of the *Spectator* Barry Humphries — whose business association with Dame Edna Everage lends weight to anything he says — reported finding in the *Yellow Pages* that most house cleaners were based in south London, and this prompted him to ask "Is south London dirtier than the rest of London?" The strange view that London south of the river is not, in the proper sense, London at all has seldom been more pitifully stated.

We are forever being reminded that, in the country as a whole, the North is disadvantaged compared with the South, but little is made of the fact that in London it is the other way round. Yet a fact it undoubtedly is. Between two and three times as many Londoners live north of the river as south of it, and most of the important public buildings, shops, theatres and other amenities are on the north side. No wonder London north of the river has a virtual monopoly of prestige.

Why should it be so? In Paris the two banks of the Seine have their distinct characteristics, but nevertheless parity of esteem. The difference is, no doubt, largely due to historical origins. Whereas London was founded on the north bank of the Thames, and the City developed there over the centuries, Paris was founded on an island, in a position of neutrality between the two banks.

It is easy to understand how the distortion in London occurred in the first place, but far less easy to understand why so little has been done to correct it in modern times. When it became apparent during the last century that the metropolis was, in fact, extending over a wide area south of the river, a deliberate effort should have been made to end the bias in favour of the north side. Instead, the bias was resolutely maintained, even increased.

The Underground network is one most eloquent piece of evidence. Apart from the Northern and Victoria lines, the District line branch to Wimbledon, and two short stretches in the south-west and south-east, the Underground does not exist south of the river. On the north side, however, its ramifications are almost limitless, and it penetrates deep into London's northern suburbs.

It is true that south London is served by an intricate network of surface commuter trains, but travelling to work in central London by one of these more often than not involves a further journey by bus or tube from the terminus. Commuters from northern suburbs are far more likely to be able to get out at a station within walking distance of their destinations, and this must be a major reason for the disproportionate growth of London's population north of the river during the present century.

The north-bank location of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and some long-established departments of state is a fact of history

with which there can be no quarrel. But much of our machinery of government is of recent creation; in particular, about half the ministries did not exist before the First World War. It seems wrong, therefore, that only two ministries — the DES and the DHSS — should occupy buildings south of the river. (And what undistinguished buildings they are.)

The most hopeful development, from south London's point of view, was the setting-up of the LCC in the 1880s, as a representative body for the whole metropolis north and south of the river. And better news still for the south bank was the decision to build the LCC's headquarters there. County Hall, started early this century and opened in 1922, was worthy of its function. But that function, sadly, has now been eliminated.

Since the Second World War some attempt has been made to upgrade the south bank in other ways. The first impulse was provided by Britain-born Herbert Morrison when he was in overall charge of the Festival of Britain. But the complex of concrete buildings ranging from the Festival Hall to the Hayward Gallery, though admirable up to a point, is somehow rather lacking in charm: while it is entirely disastrous that the semi-modernization of St Thomas's Hospital has turned a fine building into an eyesore.

One might have thought that the University of London, as a creature of the modern age, would have been at pains to evolve on a genuinely metropolitan basis. But it has done nothing of the kind: no fully-fledged school of the university is situated south of the river. (Royal Holloway College, at Egham in Surrey, can hardly be regarded as an exception.) Goldsmiths' College at New Cross, though an obvious candidate for full status, is still no more than "an institution" having recognized teachers.

The failure of the Church of England to incorporate London south of the river has been equally glaring, though more predictable (granted the Church's ancient origins and extreme institutional conservatism). Until 1905, south Londoners were still divided between the dioceses of Rochester and Winchester. But in that year, instead of being brought within the fold of the London diocese, they were assigned to the new diocese of Southwark, while the diocese of London remained exclusively north-bank. The geographical class distinction within the capital was thus confirmed and blessed by the Established Church, and the mere fact that Lambeth Palace is on the south side is no adequate compensation.

Now that the Prime Minister has decided to give priority to the inner cities, perhaps she will do something to redress the balance in London — more especially since she intends to spend the evening of her days in Dulwich.

however... Henry Stanhope

Miss Muffet, I'll join you

A colony of black widow spiders has invaded some seaside resorts in Yugoslavia, so they say. And next year things could get worse. Officials don't want to discuss it, and I know how they feel. I have never been to Yugoslavia and if things go on like this I never will.

Black widows are thus called because the female of the species insists on eating her husband after mating. Why the males have not cottoned on to this and escaped down the back stairs in time is something I have never understood. But as long as they only bite each other, I don't mind.

Unfortunately, they sometimes nip people like me. I readily acknowledge that they do so through no personal animosity — that they act in what they see as self-defence. But this is only partly reassuring.

When I was in Texas once, a little girl living nearby was bitten by one. She had put her finger up the spout of an outside tap, surprising the brute which was lurking there, and ended up in intensive care in hospital. I have always since viewed our bathroom taps with care and would certainly never try to do the same.

I admit, however, to being an extreme case. I am in fact an arachnophobe, one of millions on this earth who can't stand spiders. They used to invade my bath when I was young — great black things with hairy legs and a fine turn of speed, which clambered up the waste pipe in the autumn and glowered at intruders with thinly veiled hostility. I had to call my mother to remove them: now I cower in terror behind my wife.

The fear of course is indefensible. I accept that British spiders catch our natural enemy, flies, and would not, could not, harm a wimp like me. I also admit to being fascinated by them. On visits to London Zoo I stare transfixed at those vast bird-eating things in glass cases, the kind which crawl from bananas at the docks. If one of them got out, though, I'd be halfway across Regent's Park in even time.

I am not generally given to phobias, though deep water can make me uneasy. I also used to feel much the same way about snakes. But my fear of these has been less since I stroked one. That happened in the Far East

some years ago when I went for a private show by a local snake charmer. His act on the whole was pretty unimpressive. He looked the part all right, turbaned and cross-legged, and he did indeed play a long pipe of the kind that are seen in cartoons. It is equally true that the reptiles swayed out of his Ali Baba basket when he played.

Unfortunately, they also swayed out when he didn't. After all, if you shove a large snake into a basket, it will probably try to climb out — to musical accompaniment or not. Indeed it seemed to me that the old fakir's musical rendition would have sounded rather better if he had been able to play with both hands. As it was, he had to keep one on the lid of the basket to ensure that the snake's thirst for *Lebensraum* didn't cut short his act prematurely. He smiled apologetically as he did so, as if embarrassed by his assistant's lack of timing.

He then however insisted on draping his assorted snakes around me, in a kind of mayoral chain of writing reptiles. First he calmly placed a black mamba round my quaking shoulders, followed by a green mamba and ultimately a python. He declined to let his cobra follow suit, on il grounds that it was aggressive and temperamental — and I did feel inclined to argue with him.

Now, I had always imagined snakes to be cold, damp, clammy things, of a kind which invoke the instinctive reaction — ugh! But these, at least, were not. They were actually warm and dry, like snake-skin belts, and not in the least repellent to the touch. There was something, indeed, quite awesome about the python as it wrapped itself around me like a creeper, instinctively flexing its muscles from time to time. I would hardly go so far as to say that the experience gave me a lifelong love of reptiles. But they have always since seemed more acceptable.

I don't think I could go that far with spiders. No black widow, of the eight-legged variety anyway, will ever crawl up and down my arm with my consent, before, during or after it has been stroked. So it will have to be Lymne Regis again until better news comes to me from Duhrovnik.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR

A few weeks ago, Sir Alfred Sherman, a former speechwriter and adviser to Mrs Thatcher, invited M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the French National Front, to address a fringe conference at Blackpool next month. He should now withdraw the invitation immediately.

Although Sir Alfred's many enemies would never admit it, he is a clever and stimulating man of ideas. But like many clever and stimulating men of ideas, he is capable of being very silly. He is now being both very silly and very dangerous.

Like M. Le Pen, but like many people in both countries who are perfectly respectable, Sir Alfred opposes many of the "liberal" attitudes on race which he feels have been adopted by governments, parties, newspapers, television and officialdom. Sir Alfred is a Jew and a Zionist. He says that, because he is both those things, he believes all the more in "a national home for the British".

Since accepting the invitation to Blackpool, M. Le Pen — in a French radio interview this week — was asked about the apparent belief of some of the French National Front's supporters that the Nazi gas chambers did not exist and that the extermination of the six million did not take place. He replied with a glib of contradictory phrases in which he first said he did not doubt that Nazi gas chambers existed, but went on to do so — adding that the question he asked himself was "whether these people were killed or not." Sir Alfred still wants him to come.

Support for the French National Front includes ordinary people who are disturbed, and sometimes adversely affected, by the mass, postwar Muslim immigration into France, and who would in Britain vote Conservative. The party also attracts the support of France's old and dwindling anti-semitic right. M. Le Pen has risen with the support of both, but has

since tried to minimize his connection with the latter.

His supporters terrorize French Muslims. But he is always able to say that this is nothing to do with. Though a scoundrel, he has been a slippery scoundrel. Before this week's radio interview, it would not have been worth making much of a fuss about Sir Alfred's mischievous invitation.

With that interview, however, M. Le Pen has shown with which segment of the National Front vote his heart lies. He was probably out to reassure hard-core anti-semites that his attempts to appeal to more moderate voters in next year's presidential election did not mean that he had gone soft. But he went too far. He stands revealed as an anti-semitic of the old right.

Although parties are not responsible for what happens on their fringes, such a man has no place around a British Conservative conference. The British Conservative Party of the early nineteenth century came into being to prevent the British right from going the way of the continental right — from becoming an anti-democratic, clerical, anti-bourgeois and authoritarian. Marxism, and bad sociology, have conspired to blur this fundamental difference.

Nor is it a question of free speech. In any case, Conservatism traditionally places greater importance on public order, taste and decorum — or should. Incidentally, it was a Conservative Prime Minister (Baldwin) whose Public Order Act of 1936 forbade the Mosleyites from wearing uniforms and thus took much of the thrill out of fascism. One newspaper diary yesterday went out of its way to print the date, place and time of the Blackpool meeting — an invitation to the violent left: M. Le Pen's fellow opponents of the bourgeois order. If Sir Alfred does indeed value the British political tradition, he must keep this man away.

HIGH SCHOOL FOR MR BAKER

Next week the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, is visiting the United States to examine efforts to raise standards in schools, especially in the inner cities. There is undoubtedly a great deal he can learn there. But if he hopes to demonstrate that the radical reforms he proposes for England and Wales are already working in New York, Washington, Chicago and Dallas, he may be in for some surprises.

The US has spent most of the 1980s in a state of near hysteria about declining educational standards. A commission, appointed soon after President Reagan took office, reported in 1983 that standards had fallen so drastically over the past 20 years that "our very future as a nation and a people is at risk". It said a "rising tide of mediocrity" was threatening the nation's foundations.

Four years later, the book vying with *Spycatcher* at the top of the non-fiction best-seller lists is entitled *The Closing of the American Mind: How higher education has failed democracy and impoverished the souls of today's students*. At a less elevated level, 23 million American adults are illiterate, the high-school drop-out rate is 27 per cent, and 43 per cent of 17-year-olds in a recent survey could not date the start of the First World War within half a century.

In some respects, the Reagan Administration's analysis of what went wrong is identical to the Government's. Both assert that from the mid-1960s onwards education came to be dominated by the producers at the expense of the consumers. They argue that the resulting emphasis on classroom experiments and curriculum "relevance" led inevitably to the neglect of the three Rs.

The solutions proposed by Mr Baker and his American counterpart, William Bennett, are remarkably similar, too: a return to a basic curriculum, greater parental choice, standard-

ized attainment tests, regular assessment of teachers and a tighter control of teacher training.

So far so good. But there are some less comfortable comparisons for Mr Baker. For example, greater independence for schools, greater links with the local community, more power for heads: these are no panaceas. American schools have always been run locally. There are no fewer than 15,500 regularly elected school boards, all responsible for hiring teachers, setting budgets and determining school policies in their areas. The system is supposed to guarantee that schools are responsive to the community's needs. It does not.

In 1969, New York took decentralization one step further. It devolved powers to individual schools; allowed them, in effect, to opt out of local-authority control. A commission of inquiry set up by the mayor, Edward Koch, has just reported on the consequences. It says that communities are still not involved in the education of their children. The city's schools, it finds, still "fail to equip a shockingly large proportion of the students who enter it for the world in which they will live". The commission also notes that the policy has produced a "cumbersome and bureaucratic central administration".

These findings are a challenge to Mr Baker. No doubt in the course of his tour he will find encouraging examples of parental involvement and transformed inner-city schools. But, if he is going to make his own policies work better than the US ones, he needs to consider the manifold problems that change may present. The trip should not be considered as a public-relations opportunity to prove his case. It is a genuine opportunity to see how the soundest principles can go wrong in practice — and to stop that happening here.

LIBERALS BY ANY OTHER NAME

This year is likely to be the last in the life of the Liberal Party as we know it. A political party of long and honourable lineage is — in the technical sense — willing itself out of existence.

Its optimists see yesterday's merger vote at Harrogate, of course, as part of a metamorphosis in which the essential attributes of Liberalism are preserved. There is a strong wish that the new party, whatever changes are made in the direction of greater centralism, should preserve a generally federalist aspect and continue to belong to its members.

There is an equally clear determination that whatever formulae are produced to express the attitudes of the new party to policy should not attempt to tie policy down in any detail. That, of course, is only logical. The outgoing President of the party, Mr Des Wilson, was quite right yesterday when he drew attention to the distinction between laying down a party's political principles, which are intended for ever, and commitments to detailed policies, which realistically must change from time to time.

But everyone really knows this. What underlies the argument is a recognition of the real differences of attitudes between Liberals and many Social Democrats. The tension between the centralized constitution of the SDP and the Liberals' concept of party democracy, in which members join local associations rather than a central list, is one such difference. Despite the enthusiasm for merger at Harrogate it cannot be taken for granted.

There is every reason for merger provided there really is the marriage of minds which Mr David Steel says he discerns. The Liberals are a party of very mixed ancestry. They were born in the breakdown of an older political structure after the repeal of the Corn Laws. They were, indeed, the products of merger, though merger took place gradually.

There were, first, the middle-class manufacturing free-trade radicals, whose spearhead had

been the anti-Corn Law League, with its hatred of the Tory landowners: "For what were all these landed patriots born? To hunt, and vote and raise the price of corn." Among the founding members was the radical free trader and franchise reformer John Bright, whose hostility to any kind of social interventionism to remedy poverty would shock a member of the Institute of Economic Affairs, let alone 20th-century "Social Democratic" Liberals.

Joined with these provincials were the grand families of Whig aristocrats whose libertarian arrogance left its mark on Liberal thinking and is visible in the way some Liberals think today. Not least, there were the Peelites, whose secession from the Tories brought to the Liberal Party William Gladstone, the greatest Liberal prime minister of them all. He it was who brought a paternalism to the party, paving the way for Lloyd George, the last Liberal prime minister.

Since then, Liberalism has been kept tenuously alive as a third force depending on protest votes against other parties. This decline arose, as one Liberal pointed out at yesterday's assembly, from the split between Liberals and the Social Democrats who went into the Labour Party after the First World War. The Liberal Party remained a rump, having split even among themselves.

That they should now seek reunification with Social Democrats may be seen as natural enough. But times have moved on. The Liberals have an anarchic and unilateralist element of the kind which the Social Democrats left the Labour Party to escape.

The Liberals will be the majority in the new party, if it is formed, and they expect to determine its attitudes. But for a new party to succeed it has to be something more and better than the Liberal Party. So far there is little evidence that the Liberals have any notion of how to make it anything other than the old party under a new name.

Monolith hazard with Telecom

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones
Sir, The sorry saga of British Telecom shows how any claimed benefits of privatized industry can be lost if it remains a monolithic empire.

As you report today (September 14), the Secretary of State for Energy wisely seeks to ensure that nationalized electricity, when privatized, will not replicate the monolithic empire of BT.

Electricity, with its area boards and Scottish generating authority, rightly still retains effective area devolution of authority. Gas did so, until 1971, so laying the foundation of its conspicuous success, later reaped by British Gas. Coal, railways, docks in their earlier nationalized years also did, but sadly later lapsed into complete centralization. The results generally were hardly encouraging.

Nationalization was never meant to mean total centralization. Privatization certainly should not.

The sense of involvement, of having in truth a share, which all in the service of the privatized industry should experience, disappears with the realization that effective decision-making is done by the top few in a remote London.

Consumers' needs are more manifest, and appreciated by, their own area board members, especially the independent ones, than by bureaucrats in the hierarchy. Such members can best ensure that a sensible balance is kept between service to the consumer and profit for the company.

British Telecom now shows a most handsome profit in its own accounts. It does not, and cannot, show the far greater loss, in total, suffered by its many customers due to the poor service they receive.

BT should be warned by the phenomenal increase in consumers moving to its competitor, Mercury, where it is available.

Yours faithfully,
T. MERVYN JONES,
Erw Hill,
38 Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff.
September 14.

Motorway disaster

From Mr J. Horner
Sir, Ten days ago, travelling westwards towards London on the M4 in the heavy weekend traffic, my family and I were nearly wiped out by a motorist attempting to perform a U turn. He was, no doubt, hoping to avoid the traffic jam which had built up following an earlier accident not far from the Windsor exit on the westbound carriageway.

It is, of course, very difficult to take into account the lowest possible common denominator in intelligence and selfishness amongst drivers who will perform such incredibly dangerous acts. They should, I believe, be punished in a most exemplary manner.

I would maintain, however, that the recent disaster on the M4 (report, September 10), with loss of life and injury inflicted on so many, could have been avoided. It is totally unacceptable that there should be anything but complete physical separation of the lanes of traffic, making it impossible for a U turn to be performed, except under conditions completely controlled by the police.

The blame rests fairly and squarely on the highway authorities for permitting such an accident to occur.

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPH HORNER,
Ashford Hospital,
Ashford, Middlesex.
September 10.

Word for word

From Mr Miles Copeland
Sir, Those of us to whom clarity in communications is a professional necessity owe a debt of gratitude to Philip Howard for today's (September 8) piece on the jargon of sociologists.

May I suggest, however, that he broaden his considerations to include such ostentatious "methodology", "parameter", "anticipate" and "societal". These are useful words when used correctly, but they are not synonyms for method, limits, expect, and social.

Mr Howard can no doubt think of better examples. Yours faithfully,
MILES COPELAND,
3 The Green,
Aston Rowant,
Oxford.
September 7.

From Mr Colin Baser
Sir, Philip Howard's "New words for old" gave examples of "sociologese", apparently on the way here from the United States.

On the same day I received a letter from a very good friend in America, with whom I have been corresponding for the last 18 years. In his letter he hoped that I was enjoying my "down time".

As he was aware that I am recovering from major surgery, I am not sure whether he meant "convalescence" or "extended sick leave".

Perhaps this is another word for Mr Howard's list. Yours faithfully,
COLIN BASER,
2 John Cabot Court,
Cumberland Close,
Bristol, Avon.
September 9.

Fairness in national curriculum

From Mr Bruce McGowan
Sir, Dr John Rae (article, September 11) argues that independent schools which may fail to meet the requirement of a national curriculum should be at risk of de-registration by the secretary of state. Few would disagree with him.

It is a pity that in the course of his argument Dr Rae casts an unjustified slur on girls' independent schools. He cites only a single example to support a general allegation that there is "an impoverished curriculum in some independent schools, particularly girls'". He then goes further and claims that "some girls' schools will not even try to meet the requirements in science and technology".

In any large group of schools, State or independent (and there are more than 1,300 in the Independent Schools Joint Council) there will always be one or two that do not shine with glory, but there is no evidence that they are more likely to be girls' schools than boys' or mixed schools.

On the other hand, there is much evidence that girls' schools have made enormous strides in recent years in improving their facilities in science and technology and, importantly, in computing.

But such steady improvement is not confined to girls' schools in large groups such as the GPDST (Girls' Public Day School Trust) and the Church Schools Company, and those of the lively companies; it extends much more widely, and the Independent Schools Information Service gathers the figures annually which can prove it.

Finally Dr Rae ignores the well-attested recent research which shows that girls gain better results in mathematics and science when taught in girls' schools than in boys' or mixed schools. This could not be so if Dr Rae's low estimation of their schools was soundly based.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE MCGOWAN,
57 Oxford Street,
Woodstock, Oxford.
September 12.

From Mr Lawrence Norcross
Sir, John Rae (September 11) is right, of course, and so are Ronald Butt (September 10) and Robert Kilroy-Silk (September 12): the preservation and perpetuation of ethnic minority languages, religions and cultures should be the responsibilities of the minorities themselves, as they always have been.

The fact of our being a multi-racial society (when were we not?) leads to the conclusion that we should therefore have a multi-cultural education system only by a process of shallow and muddled

In self-defence

From Mr H. P. Hall
Sir, Mr Eric Butler, of good character, was fined and given a suspended sentence for being in possession of a swordstick which he used to defend himself against an attack on a Tube train (report, September 11).

Your Law Report of February 9, 1984, covered a Court of Appeal judgment, delivered on February 3, 1984, when Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McGowan and Mr Justice Leggatt held that a person who manufactured or possessed petrol bombs for use against imminent apprehended attack might have a defence that he had them for a "lawful object" when charged with an offence under section 4 (1) of the Explosive Substances Act 1883.

In their Lordships' judgment a defendant was not left in the paradoxical position of being able to justify acts carried out in self-defence but not acts immediately

thinking. Unhappily, this conclusion has already been reached in many parts of the system, leading to curricular distortions and wholesale interference with crucial subject syllabuses. ILEA's policies, for example, call for the removal of

those practices and procedures which discriminate against black pupils and their families. These include courses, syllabuses, schemes of work, topics, textbooks and materials which ignore or deny the validity of black experience, perspectives and culture (ILEA, *Race, Sex and Class, 3, A Policy of Equality*, Race).

Where, one wonders, does that leave Milton and Jane Austen, and will anyone ever again be allowed to read Kipling or Conrad?

Similar policies have been adopted in several other parts of the country and any head or teacher brave or foolhardy enough to question them is promptly signalled as racist, as Messrs Ray Honeyford and Jonathan Saverly can testify.

To reverse this trend, Kenneth Baker will need to do more than simply introduce a national curriculum; he will have to insist that subject syllabuses properly reflect and represent British culture, history and traditions. Anything less will betray our future as surely as our past.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE NORCROSS,
3 St Nicholas Mansions,
6-8 Trinity Crescent, SW17.
September 13.

From Mrs Doraine Potts
Sir, It would be easier to take Dr John Rae's pontifications seriously if his recent experience of education had been in a normal school.

The boys of Westminster are trained, from the age of seven, to pass tests. When they fail them their parents pay for them to be taught how to pass them. Sometimes they go on failing them, so their parents pay for them to go to some other school which needs the money. This is a true description of the process.

Mr Baker has not said who is going to go on paying for those of Britain's children who fail his tests. He has not promised — although he should — that they will be put into prep schools and given the sort of facilities, tuition and class sizes that get boys into Westminster. He certainly hasn't explained how he is going to employ them once they are all well educated.

Perhaps it is just as well that some schools are still teaching flower-arranging. It will keep them occupied. Yours faithfully,
DORAIN POTTIS,
74 Staunton Road,
Headington, Oxfordshire.

preparatory to it (my italics).

Surely if the Court of Appeal can justify the possession of petrol bombs, prepared in advance, to protect property, albeit in rare circumstances, the use of a swordstick solely for self-defence should be regarded as a "lawful object". Yours seriously,
H. P. HALL,
Robina, The Chase,
Ringwood, Hampshire.
September 14.

From Sir Robin MacLellan
Sir, I own a splendid walking stick which, within its hollow 33in length, holds half a pint of liquid. It was presented to me by a famous distiller. One can guess the favourite contents.

Do I carry it in public at my peril, guilty of possession of an offensive weapon? Administration of its contents might be every bit as lethal as 36in of cold steel.

Yours,
ROBIN MACLELLAN,
11 Beechwood Court,
Bearsden, Glasgow.

Water music

From Dr R. L. Wastie
Sir, The replies to Dr Chamberlain's enquiry (September 4) concerning water-powered church organ blowers refer only to obsolete engines.

However, the organ in St Mary's Episcopal church, Dalkeith, which I have the pleasure of playing each Sunday, is still powered by a hydraulic engine installed some time towards the end of the last century.

With the aid of a word of encouragement now and again, together with an occasional shot of a suitable lubricating fluid, it performs an uncomplaining and apparently contented task.

I trust it shares these attributes with
Yours hydraulically,
ROGER WASTIE,
122 Newbattle Abbey Crescent,
Dalkeith, Midlothian.
September 12.

Out of print

From Mr Frederick Hill
Sir, Mr John Paul Story (September 5) should take heart and continue to read his cereal packets.

Some years ago a sudden strike robbed me of my breakfast *Times*. In desperation I read the competition on the cereal packet, filled in the form and posted it. Months later, when I had forgotten all about it, I found I had won a 14in colour TV.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity..." Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK HILL,
1 River Green,
Hamble,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Medical concern over cosmetics

From Professor M. W. Greaves
Sir, I write to draw your attention to a worrying and potentially dangerous trend in the policy of the cosmetics industry. An ever increasing number of supposedly "cosmetic" products are being advertised as having profound biological effects in the skin, consequent upon their absorption through the skin. Examples of special concern include the widespread marketing of costly preparations alleged to halt or reverse the ageing process in skin.

Active ingredients include cell extracts and other macro-molecular biological ingredients which are claimed to increase skin cell turnover, restore degenerate connective tissue and prevent damage to DNA.

Cosmetics are not classified as drugs under the 1968 Medicines Act. Therefore apparently potent substances masquerading under this heading escape the controlling influence of licensing procedures on effectiveness, safety, quality and advertising.

Users need safeguarding, since they cannot assess the risks and benefits of these preparations, advertising claims for which go far beyond those expected of a cosmetic. The loophole should be closed and these potent drugs for the skin brought under statutory surveillance.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM W. GREAVES,
University of London,
Institute of Dermatology,
St Thomas's Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.
September 16.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 18 1923

Spain's attempts to pacify its territory in Morocco had met with little success. Chaos in Catalonia, too, threatened government stability. After General Primo de Rivera's (1870-1930) manifesto *Alfonso XIII (1886-1941) asked him to take office. He governed as dictator until 1930.*

THE SPANISH COUP

CAUSES OF PUBLIC DISCONTENT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MADRID, Sept. 14 (by mail).

... By forcing the hand of the King, the Marquis de Estella, Captain-General of Catalonia, has, with the support of the garrisons quartered in the principal towns of Spain, imposed his will on the country. In his Manifesto he states his intention to make a clean sweep of corrupt politicians, to stamp out the Separatist movement, and to establish a more efficient and honourable Government and Administration.

The Separatist demonstration at Barcelona on Tuesday last (September 11), while echoing ominously throughout Spain, gave no hint of the events that were to follow. After an all-night sitting of the Cabinet, people woke up to find nearly all Spain under martial law. The Government had tried to dismiss the Marquis de Estella from his post, but, seizing the communications in Barcelona, and calling upon all other garrisons to second him, he issued his Manifesto, directed principally against corrupt, professional politicians, and announcing that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Don Santiago Alba, and the Prime Minister, the Marquis de Albuera, were to be put on trial immediately.

The burning question of "responsibilities" for the Morocco disaster had taken an unexpected turn.

Satisfaction over the results of the "responsibilities" campaign spread, yet it was observed that, although intermediate ranks of the Army were punished, generals on the one hand, and Ministers on the other, continued to escape. The result was a mass demonstration, attended by 100,000 people, clamouring for them to be brought to book. The Conservative Cabinet of Don Sanchez Guerra collapsed on December 5, 1922...

THE MARQUIS DE ESTELLA.
General Don Miguel Primo de Rivera, Marquis de Estella, next to Captain-General. The Marquis de Weyer, Duke of Rubi and Marquis of Teñeira, in rank and military prestige, has called a halt to the country. His Manifesto is tempered with reason and permeated with civic sense. He appears to be fully conscious of the gravity of his act. He is a man with a clean record and a high standard of morality, of independent fortune and independent spirit...

Spain distrusts its many leaders. Confidence in its own powers of regeneration is completely lacking. As against the Army, Labour alone is organized, although suspicious of Communism. The *Pronunciamiento* has, however, elicited protests from these parties, and the gap between Labour and Communism has been bridged by an agreement to unite against the danger of a military dictatorship. This agreement is pregnant with grave possibilities, and may constitute a threat to military predominance, as many of the troops are in sympathy with the Labour movement.

The Spanish people is still split in a hundred factions, but, having as it does its professional politicians, it may have found a leader in the Marquis de Estella able to unite the powerful forces latent in a democratic people, quick to recognize clean intentions. It will not be many days before the people will have discovered or rejected him.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 17: By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of The King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to their Majesties on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 17: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Project '87, this evening attended an Art Auction and Raffle at the Osborne Studio Gallery, The Carriage Hall, Floral Street, W2.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 17: The Prince of Wales this morning opened the first stage of the new West Dorset Hospital at Darners Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, this afternoon visited Duchy property in the Eastern District.

The Prince of Wales, President, Salisbury Cathedral Spire Trust, later laid the first stone of the renovation work to the spire of Salisbury Cathedral.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Sir John Riddell, Bt and Mr David Landale were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, The Guinness Trust, this morning visited the Trust's Estate at Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith.

Mrs Anne Beckwith-Smith and Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem and President of the All-England Order of St John, left Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon to preside at the annual meeting of the delegates of the Alliance Orders in Stockholm. Lieutenant Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK
September 17: Princess Alexandra this afternoon received the Freedom of the City of Lancaster during a ceremony at the Town Hall.

Her Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Receptions

Westminster Abbey
The Right Rev Peter Ball, the Dean of Westminster, Mr Alderman Sheriff-elect Brian Jenkins, Dr Alec Dickson and Mrs Elizabeth Hoodless were hosts at a reception held in Westminster Abbey Gardens to mark the silver jubilee of the Community Service Volunteers.

Sweet and Maxwell, Attorney General, was last night present at a reception at the National Portrait Gallery held by Sweet and Maxwell, legal publishers, to mark the eighth Conference of the Section of Business Law of the International Bar Association. Among those present were:

Lord Hacking, Lord Wilberforce, Sir Robert Megarry, and Sir Edward and Lady Singleton.

Submarine's VC hero goes into hiding

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Sale Room Correspondent

A former petty officer's Victoria Cross is to be sold at Sotheby's London. However, Mr Thomas Gould will not be there to see his medal auctioned.

Mr Gould, aged 72, was so depressed at having to sell his hard-won medal, that he has fled the country and all the publicity until his medal is sold.

He won his VC in 1942 on board the submarine HMS Thrasher.

It was February 16, 1942. After many a narrow miss, HMS Thrasher was resting off the coast of Crete.

Suddenly, as the boat surfaced to recharge her batteries, unusual banging noises were heard from the deck above.

Investigation revealed an unexploded enemy bomb which had penetrated the thin metal outer casing of the submarine, and was rolling about in the narrow space between the casing and the pressure hull.

Petty Officer Gould, along with First Lieutenant P.S.W. Roberts, volunteered to attempt to remove the bomb.

Knowing that at any moment the submarine might have to crash dive to avoid attack, the two men crawled into the 2 to 3 foot gap under the casing, forced the 100lb

bomb into an old potato sack. Then in total darkness they manoeuvred it slowly along to the bow of the ship and threw it into the sea.

That was not the end of their ordeal. Another bomb was found in the darkness, and the same process began again.

This time Mr Gould held the bomb in his arms while Mr Roberts dragged him, towards a trap door. After 40 minutes they got the bomb clear.

Both men were awarded the VC, although Gould's was the only one awarded to a Jewish candidate in the Second World War. It comes up for sale at Sotheby's medal sale on October 29 and is estimated to fetch between £20,000 and £25,000.

Yesterday Christie's achieved two record prices in Glasgow with a sale of modern and Victorian Scottish paintings and drawings which fetched £157,300 in total.

The record prices were for the living Glasgow painter, Alexander Goudie both quiet but skilful still lifes laid on crisp linen, and both going for £7,700 to private buyers.

A landscape by the more famous name, Sir William MacTaggart, sold for £7,100 to the Scottish Gallery.



Mr Thomas Gould pictured in naval uniform. His VC is estimated to fetch between £20,000 and £25,000.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.B.R. Critchley and Miss E. Storey
The engagement is announced between Rowland Bruce Ramsay, eldest son of Colonel and Mrs I.R. Critchley, of Altona, Cress, Perthshire, and Elsie, eldest daughter of the Hon. Sir Richard Storey, Bt, and the Hon. Lady Storey, Settrington House, Malton, Yorkshire.

Mr M.J. Abrahams and Miss H. Abel
The engagement is announced between Michael John, only son of Mr J.L. Abrahams, of Brighton, and Mrs J.M. Abrahams, of London, and Helen, eldest daughter of the Rev David and Mrs Abel, of Lingfield, Surrey.

Mr D.M. Ainley and Miss B.B. Yule
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr Richard Ainley and the late Dr Rowena Woolf, of London, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan B. Yule, of Walsingham, New South Wales.

Mr J.B. Camsey and Miss L.C. Adams
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Bickerstaff, son of Mr and Mrs Granville Camsey, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Lucy Clare, daughter of Dr and Mrs James Adams, of The Old Barn, Sowerthorpe, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.P. Cox and Miss S.L. Ansell
The engagement is announced between Robin Patrick, younger son of Commander and Mrs J.B. Cox, of Formby, Merseyside, and Sarah Louise, only daughter of Mr John Ansell, of Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs John Grimdale, of Piddington, Sussex.

Mr C.D.G. Gaffney and Miss S.L. Adcock
The engagement is announced between Christopher David

Mr A.L.J. Dale and Miss J.E. Boxer
The engagement is announced between Alexander Joseph, son of Mr and Mrs R.H. Dale, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, and Jane Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.J. Boxer, of the Thatched House, Garth Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.P.H. Davies and Mrs C.S. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Martin Paul Heriot Davies and Caroline Susan Jenkins (née Higgins), daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Jenkins, of North Wick, Dundry, Bristol.

Mr J. Jansen and Miss R.F.K. Whitehead
The engagement is announced between Justin Jansen, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, eldest son of Mr C.F. Jansen, of Hexham, Northumberland, and the late Mrs V. Jansen, and Rachel, eldest daughter of Colonel A.F. Whitehead, DSO, and Mrs A.F. Whitehead.

Mr D. McLellan and Miss V. Street
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs James McLellan, of Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, and Veronica, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.G. Faber, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Ellen, daughter of the late Dr and Mrs M. Cranitch, of Highbury.

Mr E. Files and Miss T. Herbert
The engagement is announced between Edmund, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs Dominic Files, of Yorkshire, and Tania, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Herbert, of New York, United States.

Mr J.A. Sasse and Miss J.F. Flynn
The engagement is announced between John A. Sasse, son of the late Mr J.A. Sasse and of Mrs Sarah Sasse, of 35 Gloucester Walk, London, W8, and Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J.W. Flynn, of Brockford Hall, Doveridge, Derbyshire.

Mr G.E. Slack and Miss J.A. Worrall
The engagement is announced between George Errington Slack, of Hexham, Northumberland, and Jane Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Worrall, of Coggeshall, Essex.

Mr H. Sidons and Miss J.A. Clough
The engagement is announced between Hamish, son of the late Mr James Sidons, and of Mrs Jill Wedgwood, of Auchinloch House, Blairfield, Strathclyde, and Julie Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Clough, of Lambrook, Winkfield Row, Berkshire.

Mr H.C.G. Carrod and Miss A.C. Bourne
The marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on September 17, between Mr Hugh Charles Gordon Carrod, of Whiton, Nottinghamshire, and Miss Amanda Caroline Bourne, of Barkway, Hertfordshire. The Rev Sandy Millar officiated.

The bride was attended by Miss Lucy Bourne, Miss Sophie Morgan-Jones, Cosmo Currey and Archie Horn. Mr Anthony Ward was best man.

A reception was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Graham, only son of Major and Mrs M.A. Gaffney, of Learnington Spa, and Sally Louise, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs S.J.P. Adcock, of Southampton.

Mr C.H. James and Miss J.V. Brown
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs R.H. James, of Filton, Bristol, and Joie, younger twin daughter of Mr and Mrs P.F. Brown, of North Wick, Dundry, Bristol.

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Marriages
Mr J.B. Alexander-Sinclair and Miss C.A.A. Fenwick. The marriage of Mr James Alexander-Sinclair and Miss Celestina Fenwick was blessed in the Church of St Mary, Easton Neston, by Father James Reid on Wednesday, September 16.

A small family luncheon was held afterwards at Sholebrooke, near Towcester, the home of the bride.

Mr H.C.G. Carrod and Miss A.C. Bourne
The marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on September 17, between Mr Hugh Charles Gordon Carrod, of Whiton, Nottinghamshire, and Miss Amanda Caroline Bourne, of Barkway, Hertfordshire. The Rev Sandy Millar officiated.

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Birthdays today
Lord Ackner, 67; Mr Ray Alan, ventriloquist, 57; Mr Geoff Baxter, jockey, 41; Colonel Sir Thomas Butler, former resident governor, HM Tower of London, 77; Mr Jack Cardiff, film director and cameraman, 73; Mr N. Crowley, chairman, Allied Irish Banks, 61; Viscount Eccles, 83; Miss Greta Garbo, actress, 82; Lieutenant-Colonel

OBITUARY

MOST REV G. P. DWYER

Scholarly and pastoral prelate

The Most Rev George Patrick Dwyer, DD, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, who died yesterday, at the age of 78, had the unique distinction of having been the only prelate to be elected President of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who was not a Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

That he held this post from 1978 to 1979 was tribute to the trust and affection in which he was held by his brother bishops and also to his outstanding leadership in the Church over many years.

He was born on September 25, 1908, and educated at St Bede's, Manchester. He was then sent to study for the priesthood at the venerable English College in Rome, where Monsignor (later, Cardinal) Arthur Hinsley was Rector, and where he formed a life-long friendship with a fellow-student three years his senior, John Carmel Heenan. They were a constant foil to one another: Heenan with his steady precision and sparkle, Dwyer with a wit and a memory which never forgot a Roman inscription or a college pantomime lyric.

He was awarded doctorates in philosophy and sacred theology at the Gregorian University, and after ordination for the Diocese of Salford, graduated in mediaeval and modern languages at Cambridge in 1937, and was Lady Margaret scholar.

Back in Manchester, he was posted to St Bede's, where he taught French and religious studies.

In 1947, his close friendship with Heenan led to his being summoned to London to help in reviving the work of the Catholic Missionary Society, a group of priests given the task of preaching missions in parishes throughout England and Wales.

It was then that the names of Heenan and Dwyer became well-known throughout the land. When Heenan was appointed Bishop of Leeds in 1951, Dwyer succeeded him as Superior of the Catholic Missionary Society. When Heenan was translated to Liverpool in 1957, Dwyer succeeded him as Bishop of



Leeds. Inevitably some of the aura of his predecessor fell on the new bishop.

Archbishop Heenan had left behind him a reputation for unsparing efficiency and a blend of pastoral zeal with the sophisticated apologetics. The same shoes did not fit Dwyer, who had retained his Northern directness alongside a balance of personal concern and wide-ranging interests. He was a voracious reader, and a master of many languages, with so many friends abroad that it was no surprise that during the Second Vatican Council he was elected to the Commission for the Rule of Dioceses.

This sorry tried his patience on many occasions, yet his personal contribution to the council—in debate, in commission-work and in the corridors of St Peter's—was considerable.

At the end of the council, in December, 1965, Dwyer was appointed Archbishop of Birmingham. There, for the next seventeen years, he gave fearless leadership to his people, especially after the IRA troubles in that city. Nationally, he became the first Chairman of the Roman Catholic Theological Commission and was also given the difficult task of implementing the liturgical changes called for by Vatican II. "Don't say 'Stop mucking us about'", he once said to his critics. "The Church is saying 'Be mucked about' and that should be good enough."

Temperamentally, however, he did not seem to like

such disturbances himself. He was very much a creature of the Church of before the Council, a far more basic model, which may well have been why he did not think himself the right man to lead the national Catholic flock when the pace of change showed no signs of abating.

He did not resist the necessary adjustments, nor did he see himself as having sufficient understanding of them to lead and inspire others in those adjustments. It was characteristic of the man that he did not regard himself as having any duty to turn the clock back, however.

He had no doubts that the Second Vatican Council had correctly read the signs of the times, and that it was his task to see those prescriptions applied. He had no time for movements within the church which were disobedient or reactionary; though he had some sympathy with those who found change hard to accommodate.

He had a gift for clear thought and expression and was undoubtedly the author of many statements from the Bishops' Conference, notable amongst which was the "Statement on Moral Questions" issued in 1971.

When Heenan died in 1975, Dwyer took the unusual step of letting it be known that, at the age of 67, he felt too old for the job at Westminster. Although he escaped that succession, he was elected President of the Bishops' Conference to cover the period while the new Archbishop of Westminster was gathering his episcopal reins.

As the years went by, admiration by his colleagues had given way to deification. The stories of "George Patrick" were legion and there was widespread regret when failing health led him to offer his resignation in 1982.

He wrote to his people asking them to pray for his patience and retired to a convent in Selby Park, Birmingham, where with failing sight he waited for the end with a patient humility which surprised even his friends.

PROFESSOR IAN BOYD

Professor Ian Boyd, who died suddenly on September 14, at the age of 60, was a distinguished Scottish physiologist.

He was notable for his elegant studies of the mammalian muscle spindle, that peculiarly complex sensory nerve ending, numbers of which are to be found in virtually all the ordinary (skeletal) muscles of the body. Without the feedback about what each muscle is doing, skilled motor performance, from skiing to the playing of musical instruments, would be impossible.

Ian Alexander Boyd was born in Glasgow on May 23, 1927. He spent most of his life there, from schoolboy through medical student to university lecturer, reader, and then, in 1966, Buchanan Professor.

He came from a medical family which had an interest in "fringe" medicine. But after qualifying and working in hospital for a year he turned to academic life, taking both a PhD in physiology at Glasgow and an external BSc from London in physical sciences so as better to prepare himself for research.

This was in the heady post-war years when scientists were encouraged to look to the long-term. Boyd contributed on all sides, the research was popular, his teaching was popular, and he acquired an increasing administrative load at all levels in the university.

However, in 1983, he had had enough of this dissipation

of his energies and the problems of running a department with shrinking resources, and at the age of 56, at the height of his powers, took early retirement under the generous scheme then being forced on universities.

But this was not a cessation of activity; he kept his rooms in the department, gained further research grants from outside bodies, and settled down to expand his research in an area where he led the world. He remained in touch with more common concerns, by continuing some teaching, and by some committee work both locally and nationally.

His scientific contributions to the understanding of the muscle spindle were of two quite distinct kinds. The first, made in the 1960s, could have been achieved any time from the beginning of the century, since it depended upon no more than careful observation of its detailed structure using the light microscope.

Boyd found that what had been dismissed by previous workers as meaningless variation in detail actually betokened a significant and systematic morphological differentiation with important functional connotations.

Others joined in the fray, and along with Boyd continued to fill in the picture, but he himself was responsible for what would now be called the "breakthrough".

Second, he developed his operative skills so as to dissect out a single living muscle spindle, some 2-3mm long and 0.1mm wide, along with

its yet finer sensory and motor nerve fibres so as to watch it under the microscope while it was being stretched (its normal stimulus) at the same time; thus studying the motor nerve impulses going to it and the sensory impulses coming from it.

This visually beautiful, scientifically satisfying, and demanding work has continued to be refined and has led to a wealth of important findings, among them the characterization of at least three distinct types of fibre within the muscle.

Many of these findings have been brought vividly before Boyd's world-wide admirers by a series of films showing the living muscle spindle in action; the early teaching version was awarded prizes in Britain, Germany, and the United States in 1971-2.

Boyd was very Scottish, and conscious of it. He was a reserved man who could, nevertheless, become something of a showman when delivering lectures or details of his latest findings.

He was scrupulously honest and fair, with an exceptional capacity for painstaking work. If he took up a course, he devoted to it great drive and energy. He devoted many years to running a local boys' club.

His wife, Jane, whom he married in 1971, survives him with their two adopted sons.

MR RALPH COBOLD

Mr Ralph Cobbold, who died on September 1, at the age of 81, was an outstanding sportsman and a distinguished member of the wine trade (he was a former managing director of Justerini and Brooks).

Lord Home of the Hirsel writes:
Ralph Cobbold was well-known to a host of friends as an accomplished and stylish player of games, and as a sportsman.

He captained the Eton Cricket XI and was a Cambridge Blue; and, later, among shooters and fishermen, he was a skilful practitioner, and an endless source of fun and anecdotes.

There was, too, another side to his character which ought to be put on record.

He was an exemplary and practising patriot. Foreseeing the outbreak of war, he became attached to the Coldstream Guards in 1938. He served as an instructor at Sandhurst, and then went through the war with the 7th Armoured Division in France, Holland and Germany.

Later, on retirement from his business, he kept in touch with the Armed Forces and became president of his branch of the British Legion in Orford and Sudbourne for the remaining years of his life.

MR STANLEY BLACKSTONE

Mr Stanley Blackstone, CBE, FIMechE, who died on September 8, at the age of 79, was a pioneer of management consultancy in this country, and played an important part in organizing the production of wartime aero- and tank engines.

Stanley Ernest Blackstone was born in 1908 and educated at Uppingham School and at Clare College, Cambridge, where he read mechanical sciences. His first engineering experience was with the family firm Blackstone & Co, which manufactured engines and agricultural implements.

He joined Production Engineering in 1936, to become one of the first groups of management consultants in Britain. He became managing director of the group (now known as P. E. Consulting Group) in the 1950s and built up its practice in all branches of management science, here and overseas.

One of its major clients was Rolls Royce where Blackstone was personally involved in planning and setting up the production of the Merlin aircraft engine, the Meteor tank engine, and the early jet engines.

The production of the Merlin (which replaced an American engine in the North American Mustang) involved liaison with Packard for its manufacture in the United States. During this period Blackstone often made the wearisome crossing of the Atlantic, sitting on a plank in the bomb bay of a Lancaster, breathing oxygen, all the way.

In 1950, he founded, and was the first chairman of, the Management Consultants Association. He was also chief industrial adviser to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC).

In 1966, he became an independent consultant but retained a close association with ICFC. He also founded Hudsell Yates Developments Ltd, where he developed the Badger trenchless pipelaying system, and for this received the Queen's Award.

Blackstone's hobbies were chiefly in agriculture and the countryside. He ran a fruit farm at Frensham and was a governor of the Royal Agricultural Society.

He leaves a widow, two daughters and a stepson.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **AS IS:** William M Hoffman play from New York about AIDS, with George Costigan as the victim and David Fielder as his former lover. Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Road, E1 (01-750 4000). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT:** Frank Finlay, Wendy Craig and others in Jeffrey Archer courtroom drama. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 (01-734 1167). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **THE BIG KNIFE:** Clifford Odets operates on the Hollywood system. With Martin Shaw, Gayle Hunnicutt. Albany Theatre, 213 Mile End Road, E1 (01-750 4000). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **THE COLORED MUSEUM:** Zestful parody of all things black and beautiful. From New York by way of the Royal Court. For two weeks only. Duke of York's Theatre, 205 St Martin's Lane W2 (01-836 5122). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE:** Frank Farrant in musical entertainment about the man with the cork moustache. Comedy Theatre, Paton Street SW1 (01-830 2570). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Donald Sinden's starry production re-opens a theatre long dead to television. Dame Wrentham is appalled by the handbag. Royalty Theatre, Portugal Street W2 (01-831 0880). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **PORTRAITS:** New John Douglas-Horne play with Keith Mitchell as Augustus, John and Simon Ward playing three of his sisters (Monty, Matthew Smith and Cecil Gordon). Savoy Theatre, The Strand, WC2

★ **THE FILMS OF FEDERICO FELLINI:** (above) increasingly feed off his past work and career. His latest, *Fellini's Interview*, due in London next year, is a full-blown self-portrait. The Barbican cinema provides a useful week-long refresher course retrospective (see listing), ranging from *Lights of Variety* (1950) to last year's *Ginger and Fred*. The season begins tonight in a blaze of grotesque detail and colour with *Roma* (6pm) and *Amarcord* (8.15pm). On tomorrow is *La Dolce Vita*, which will soon be released as the *Everyman*, Hampstead.

★ **OUT OF TOWN**
★ **CHILTERNHAM:** Dr Faust: James Warwick and Gerard Greenfield head the cast in touring version, co-produced by Oxford stage company. Everyman Theatre, Regent Street SW1 (01-830 2570). Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, Sun 2.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **DERBY:** The Innocent Mistress: Revival of long-forgotten comedy by 16th century dramatist, Mary Wroth. Lovely to look at. Playhouse Theatre, Eagle Centre, Derby (0332 86275). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **EDINBURGH:** Can't Pay, Won't Revise: The Supermarket: Dario Fo's political rage. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay Street (01 229 9697). Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **LEICESTER:** You Strike the Rock: Market Theatre of Johannesburg touring with play about scraping a living in South Africa. Haymarket Studio Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0533 535797). Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri and Sat 8.15pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **MANCHESTER:** Don Carlos: Ian McDiarmid plays Philip of Spain in chiller's drama of love and politics. Royal Exchange Theatre, Cross Street (061 833 9833). Mon-Thurs 7.30pm, Fri and Sat 8pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **FILMS**
★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**
★ **THE BIG EASY (18):** Uncertain moment of sex comedy and police thriller, with Dennis Quaid and Ellen Barkin. Directed by Jim McBride. 213 Mile End Road, E1 (01-750 4000). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

★ **THE BURNING BURNING:** A full-blown self-portrait. The Barbican cinema provides a useful week-long refresher course retrospective (see listing), ranging from *Lights of Variety* (1950) to last year's *Ginger and Fred*. The season begins tonight in a blaze of grotesque detail and colour with *Roma* (6pm) and *Amarcord* (8.15pm). On tomorrow is *La Dolce Vita*, which will soon be released as the *Everyman*, Hampstead.

★ **THURSDAY'S LADIES:** Dorothy Tutin, Eileen Atkins, Sam Phillips meeting, remembering and re-enacting times past. From the French. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2653). Tue-Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, Fri 8-10.30pm, Sat 8-10.30pm, Sun 8-10.30pm, £2.50-£5.00.

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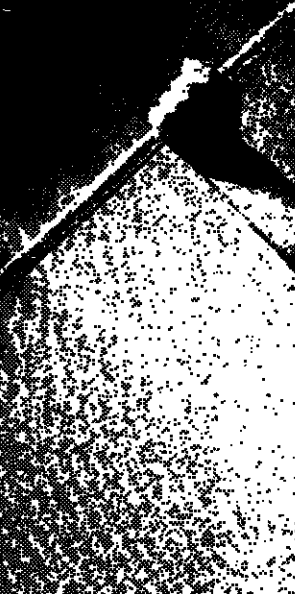
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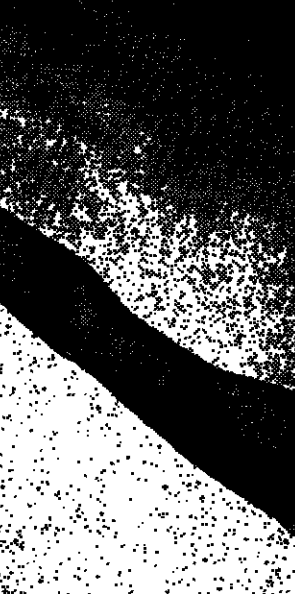
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Writer's lament for vanishing glories



John Fowles, the author, on the shore of Lyme Bay with the recently reinforced Cob of Lyme Regis behind him to the right. Photograph: Graham Wood.

By Andrew Morgan

An attack on the destruction of south-west England and a lament for its vanishing natural glories has been made by John Fowles, the author.

Mr Fowles, who lives and writes in Lyme Regis, the Dorset town he celebrated in his most famous book, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, recalls the numbers of basking sharks, dolphins and Cornish rav-

ens, which he used to watch as a young man.

Now an 62,000 tons of contaminated sludge is estimated to be dumped in the still seemingly attractive Lyme Bay each year. The area contributes to the reputation of south-west Britain as having the most polluted beaches in the country.

He writes: "I will not hide Man's true profession. It is an ancient one

on these shores. He is a wrecker and what he wrecks now is not just ships. It is all that he once most treasured in the world."

Mr Fowles, who is an accomplished geologist, adds: "Things are in retreat. Everywhere, man increases and advances. Did it not happen so often, we should be shocked at how much disappears, and perhaps most of all with the south-west's great glory in an

increasingly urban age, its solitude and wilderness."

Mr Fowles is one of 10 authors contributing to a new book about Britain's threatened heritage, called *Coastline*, published in association with Greenpeace, the ecology pressure group.

Much of the book's inspiration stems from the 1986 voyage of the Greenpeace ship *Beluga*, which analysed land and water in Britain's

coasts and estuaries to highlight the depth of the threat from pollution. Such analysis is juxtaposed with arresting photographs and details of the beauty in 14 regions which make up the British heritage.

In *Coastline* (Kingfisher £14.95), Greenpeace scientists claim that the south-west, which has fisher beaches, also suffers from uncontrolled releases from nuclear submarines based at Devonport.

Carrington cautions Europe on nuclear deal 'imbalance'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary-General, gave a warning yesterday that West European governments would have to remain on their guard both during the implementation period of a medium-range (INF) arms control treaty and after the missiles had been removed.

The issue of European security, he said, would be top of Nato's agenda for at least the next five years, and he predicted that with fewer nuclear weapons in Europe governments would need to spend more money on collective conventional defence.

Lord Carrington, in a major speech on INF to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House in London, dismissed the INF critics who have cast doubt on the "military wisdom" of dismantling the cruise and Pershing 2 missiles which Nato began to deploy in 1983 in answer to the Russian SS20s. He said such views were "misplaced".

"If all goes well, an agreement with Senate ratification should be possible next year," he said. But he gave this warning: "Immediately upon an INF treaty's entry into force we shall confront the need to maintain stability in Europe during treaty implementation, although I should hope the most stringent methods of verification, fully and honestly employed, will take care of that."

"But temporary vulnerability and perhaps imbalances may arise during implementation and could pose risks which we must guard against."

Lord Carrington's remarks on verification appeared to be aimed at Washington, which recently announced that the challenge inspection regime previously demanded by the Americans could be softened since the Russians had dropped their insistence on retaining 100 warheads in the Asian sector of the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington did not

believe, however, that Europe was "on the slippery slope to decoupling" from the United States. But agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union would "change the landscape of European security quite considerably, perhaps as profoundly as any development in a generation".

Lord Carrington warned that Europe should not be carried away "in a wave of euphoria" towards the idea of "some mythical non-nuclear nirvana".

Just by counting the kilotons, Europe would become a much "less nuclear" place, but not denuclearized. Nuclear weapons, Lord Carrington said, would remain essential to implementing Nato's strategy of flexible response.

He said: "Our military commanders must still be able to do their job and they have assured us that they can do so provided certain systems - I am thinking particularly of dual-capable aircraft - are retained."

Armada monument rejected

By Andrew Morgan

Plans for a monument at the home of Sir Francis Drake to mark the 400th anniversary next year of the Spanish Armada have been rejected.

Plymouth City Council has set aside £20,000 to erect a 40-ton memorial in a field at 13th Century Buckland Abbey but the properties committee of the National Trust, which owns the building, turned the scheme down.

Mr Martin Drury, the historic buildings secretary, said: "It was unanimously agreed that the monument would have been unsuitable for its site at Buckland. Its impact on the abbey would have been there for many years."

The monument was designed by Mr Tristram Besterman, curator of Plymouth City Museum, and Mr Richard Grashy, a Dorset sculptor. It is like a limestone tor on one side, with ribs of slate on the other. Mr Besterman said it did not impede any views.

Tories ban Le Pen from conference

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Leading Conservatives have banned M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French National Front leader, from attending their party conference in Blackpool next month.

And they have made plain their strong disapproval of an invitation to M Le Pen to attend a fringe meeting at Blackpool during the conference week.

M Le Pen, a candidate in next year's presidential elections, said on television that he doubted the existence of the Nazi gas chambers.

Embarrassment in high Tory circles over the meeting intensified yesterday, particularly because M Le Pen will be at Blackpool as a guest of Sir Alfred Sherman, a former close adviser and speechwriter for the Prime Minister.

Labour members of the European Parliament, of which M Le Pen is a member, urged Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to bar him from Britain.

A senior Conservative of-

ficial said: "No application has yet been made for a ticket for M Le Pen to attend the conference. Were he to make one it would not be granted."

The fringe meeting could not be stopped "because it has nothing to do with us". But it did not have the party's blessing.

Sir Alfred, a former director of the Centre for Policy Studies, said yesterday that as of that moment, the fringe meeting and an associated press conference on October 8 in Blackpool would go ahead.

He had invited him because "people like Le Pen and his organization must not be marginalized, otherwise they become dangerous".

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton and vice president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, said: "Le Pen should never have been invited. Now that he has delivered himself of this disgraceful outburst, it must be withdrawn."

Leading article, page 15

Conference sketch

Vague invitation to a new party

"I want the press to leave this assembly and transmit the wonderful message of hope," said a female delegate. She looked forward to the "wonderful and marvellous mountains for us to scale and conquer" and felt that, "at the end of the day, there is a lot of love in this party".

There were strong hints of a Country and Western song lurking, ready to pounce. This song would, no doubt, be played over the sparkling amplifiers at the event that had been planned all week: the marvellous new party.

But what sort of party will it be and will anyone want to come? Certainly there are some in the street who do not want a new party at all, and if they come they will be determined to make it bring-a-battle.

Even the drafting of the invitation was enough to put some people off the whole idea. "In line five, after the word 'which' insert the word 'commitment'" said smoothie Colin Darracot, chairman-for-a-day. "Also put a semi-colon after the bracket". It was hardly the stuff of "Hey, guys, let's have the party right here!" so beloved of movie funsters.

There were some who did not approve of the invitation to the invitation to the invitation to the party. "There's no mention of a party which looks forward to peace," said one delegate. Nor was there any mention of a party committed to being as nice as possible for most of the time, but sooner or later someone was bound to suggest it. "There's not a single word about it being a party that is not just pluralist, decentralized, and open but also activist," said another.

But almost everyone was agreed that the old party had run its course. All the great party characters whose names were evoked - "This is the party of Lloyd George, Gladstone and Asquith" - had left long ago, and that the man who was now greeting guests, a Mr David Steel, was more of a gifted washer-up than a host in the grand tradition.

Nevertheless, it seemed impolite to abandon the old party without first depositing a bread-and-butter letter on the mantelpiece. But somehow it never rings quite true if excessive thanks are deliv-

ered as one hot-foot it next door.

"We are a great movement," said Mr Tim Clement Jones, waving a-ta. He then delivered a succession of compliments. "Liberals have never been backward-looking," he said. Others delivered their thanks in a less straightforward way. "We are a bottom-up party," said another delegate, perhaps harking back to the mid-seventies. "Not just a party for today but a party of tomorrow."

But the invitation to tomorrow's party still seemed a little ill-defined. A young man in glasses said that it should be a "third world party", and a young girl said that it should be a party to "reach out to young people and appeal to people at all levels".

Mr Tony Greave, who normally favours bean-bag parties in which partygoers gather in the kitchen to criticize their hosts, seemed to have changed his tune. "Liberals want a party we can be happy in," he said. For him, this was a major change of personal policy: for years he has favoured being as disgruntled as possible.

Invited to a wine-and-cheese party, he would complain of the lack of lager and chocolate cookies; invited to a pyjama party he would turn up in morning suit. But today he was on best behaviour.

Good as the old party had been, no-one seemed, as they waved their drunken good-byes, to remember quite what had gone on at it. A young and trusting man declared that he had never been a unilateralist party. "Rubbish!" came a scream from the audience. "We are not narrow partisans," said someone else. Somewhere, the Federation of Narrow Partisan Liberals were tabling a motion to dissociate itself from the remarks of the previous speaker.

As they run out of the old party into the night, leaving a few stragglers behind them, they seem sure in their own minds that the next party will be better, better, better. Like Mr Abbott before them, they love a party with a happy atmosphere. And that, within its limits, is a marvellous message of hope.

Craig Brown

Liberals back merger

Continued from page 1

ment to hold an assembly in January to sanction the result of talks, the conference removed the pressure of a timetable from Liberal negotiators.

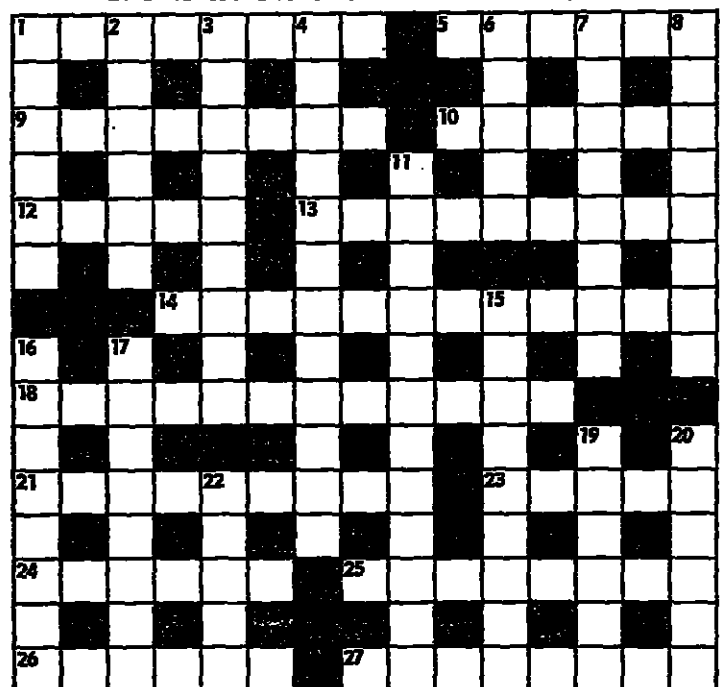
The 11 negotiators now have no time limit, though party chiefs still hope to complete the negotiations in time for a January assembly, a February ballot of members, and the setting up of the new party in time to fight local government elections.

The Liberal negotiators, eight of whom will be elected by the Assembly today, were given some instructions by yesterday's assembly which will cause problems in the merger talks. The assembly voted overwhelmingly that while there should be national

membership lists for the new party there should not be a nationally administered membership scheme.

They ignored warnings earlier in the week from Mr Andrew Ellis, their secretary general, that they would never raise the £1 million a year needed to finance the new party if they did not have a centrally administered scheme for membership subscriptions, as the SDP has. But the Liberals, who traditionally prize the independence of their constituency associations, voted to instruct their negotiators to leave the administration of membership lists, and therefore the collection of subscriptions, in the hands of constituency associations.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,465



- ACROSS**
- Put bracelets on both arms (8).
 - Break off communications, having an emotional problem (4,2).
 - Where to get a neat fisherman's sweater (8).
 - You could be lovelier (6).
 - Everybody's in line for assembly (5).
 - Impression on paper of the sea here at its height (9).
 - Pension off the splendid woman you called a goddess? (12).
 - Summing up, without a prior note, a submission (12).
 - For a Roman she was unusually puritanical, lacking sex appeal (9).
 - Disolute, but not tight (5).
 - Parts of the pistle without the right spark (6).
 - The top's come off this pinta (4,4).
 - Nuts on fruit for breakfast? (6).
 - Cave explorer needs room to turn round for a start (8).
- DOWN**
- Escape from the giraffe's enclosure (6).
 - That's £50 invested in Japanese paper - an ornamental work (6).
 - Flower that makes a sweet bunch (9).
 - Frank is turning, using neutral (4,3).
 - I love old Roman city intrigue (5).
 - Hand over bride with free present (4,4).
 - Area kept free for bird from Africa (8).
 - Habit you can't get out of - that's the difficulty with a reef (6,6).
 - Gas lights now standardised? (4,5).
 - Church in Crimea could be very cold, of course (3,5).
 - Fruit dish in this order is perfect (5,3).
 - It is usually spotted in a hooded cloak (6).
 - Interrupt the speaker - to hell with the French! (6).
 - An angel, this unmarried girl (5).

Concise crossword, page 10

WEATHER

A fresh westerly covers the country, bringing showers in the north. South coast areas will be cloudy tomorrow with the chance of a little rain. Most other areas will start the day quite sunny and many parts of southern and central England will have a fine day with some sunny periods. Showers, already affecting many north-western coasts and hills, will break out in other northern parts during the day. It will be a cooler day almost everywhere, and distinctly chilly in the strong west wind in northern Britain - and over the Scottish mountains, cold enough for a little snow. Outlook for the tomorrow and Sunday: Still rather changeable, especially in the north.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

HIGH TIDES

MONDAY: a, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fog; fog; r, rain; s, sun; snow; L, thunder.

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TEMPUS

Reckitt still to show its spice

HECKITT & COLMAN

RELATIVE TO THE ALL-SECTOR INDEX

MONTHS

O N D J F M A M J J A

Month	Relative to the All-Sector Index
January	750
February	850
March	1050
April	1150
May	1180
June	1050
July	950
August	800

APV Baker

The takeover of Baker Perkins by APV Holdings was clearly a good thing.

Synergy was much talked of at the time and the more the two companies find out about each other, the better it apparently becomes.

Although the interim statement lacked detail about the costs of putting the two operations together and about the split of profits between Baker and APV, pretax profits at £16.2 million were higher than expected.

The company did say that merging will result in the loss of 1,500 jobs, mainly from Baker Perkins and Pasilac, the Danish dairy plant manufacturer bought last June. The costs will show up at the year-end in an acquisition-accounted final statement.

Cost savings will follow with some benefit this year from Baker, but much more next, and savings from Pasilac all coming next year.

APV Baker is the world's largest maker of food and drink processing equipment and is in a growth industry. Orders at the end of June

Albert Sharp, the stock broker, is forecasting pretax

In brief

● **MACKAY (HUGH):** Six months to June 30. Figures in £000. Interim dividend 2p

**Invisib
of pay**

Invisibles take balance of payments into black

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of payments on the current account was comfortably in surplus in the first half of the year, according to new figures released yesterday.

Balance of payments data for the second quarter showed a larger surplus than the so-called invisible items of trade than first estimated.

The figures also include an upward revision of first quarter earnings on invisibles, mainly because of new information on earnings from overseas investments.

The invisibles surplus was revised upwards by £201 million to £1.807 billion in the first quarter, and by £387 million to £2.187 billion in the second.

Together the upward revisions transformed the current account position for the first half of the year. It is now estimated to have been in surplus by £498 million, compared with earlier data showing a first-half deficit of £90 million.

The new second quarter figures for invisible earnings may lead to a change in the monthly estimate of the invisibles surplus in the third quarter.

The Central Statistical Office yesterday said it was examining the position. The August trade figures are out next Thursday and a monthly invisibles surplus of £700 million would be consistent with the second-quarter result.

The figures were welcomed in the City yesterday, and were seen as pushing the threat of a balance of payments constraint on the economy further into the future.

Government stocks, in particular, rose strongly, and were about 1½ points higher.

While the current account has slipped into deficit in the latest three months, there is now no danger of a large payments deficit for the year.

The Treasury's official forecast for the current account is for a deficit of £3.5 billion.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

	Visible	Invisible	Current a/c
1984	-4,384	5,858	1,474
1985	-2,178	5,097	2,919
1986	-8,463	7,483	-980
1987 Q1	-1,136	1,807	672
1987 Q2	-2,961	2,187	-174

Source: Central Statistical Office

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CH pays £30m for Ritblat company

By Cliff Feltham

CH Industrials, the mini-conglomerate, is paying Mr John Ritblat's British Land £30.3 million for its Grip-Perds International floor coverings offshoot. It is also spending £2.1 million on DMI Holdings, a privately-owned supplier of components for office furniture, as part of a big expansion.

Grip-Perds, which became part of British Land three years ago, is one of Europe's largest suppliers of carpet grippers, floor covering adhesives, underlay and equipment for carpet-fitting.

Earlier this year Grip-Perds snapped up RCI, a competitor with a firm foothold in the US.

Grip-Perds' record has been relatively quiet with pretax profits fluctuating between £1.6 million in 1984 and £1.4 million last year. But having taken over a rival and ended a period of fierce price competition, profits are expected to improve.

DMI, based at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, earned pretax profits of £140,000 last year on sales of £3.7 million. The final payment for it could be up to £6 million depending on profits.

CH Industrials already operates in four areas: chemical and polymer products, specialist engineering and design, property and investment, and office products and shop-fitting. Last year pretax profits doubled to £4.3 million.

CH Industrials is paying for the acquisitions by issuing 24.4 million new shares to raise £38.6 million with the additional cash going towards other small acquisitions.

Most of the shares will be available to present shareholders at 167p each. In the market the existing shares were 1p better at 186p.

Perry motors

Perry Group, the Ford motor dealer, raised pretax profits to £2.55 million in the six months to June 30 from £1.79 million in the previous first half. The interim dividend is increased from 1.65p to 2p. The company said July showed an improvement on 1986 and August had been a record month.

Darwin's unnatural selection

Negotiations for yesterday's £100 million acquisition of Aspinalls, the casino group — jointly owned by Sir James Goldsmith and zoologist John Aspinall — by Peter de Savary's new property development and leisure group Alfred Walker, were, I hear, the ultimate in brinkmanship. Discussions almost foundered over the cost of Aspinalls' hotel in the heart of Crocodile Dundee country in Darwin, Australia, with de Savary claiming the price was too high. Tourists would, he said, be deterred by frequent hurricanes and the jellyfish that infested the shoreline. According to de Savary, Goldsmith told him to shut up and retorted that the hotel was "paradise on earth." De Savary then asked Goldsmith if he had ever been to Darwin. There was silence at the other end of the telephone. Finally, Goldsmith spluttered defensively: "Have you ever been to Darwin?" De Savary then suggested: "I'll tell you the truth, if you tell me the truth." Both men agreed. It turned out that neither of them had been to Darwin in their lives. Eventually de Savary agreed to pay £5 million for the hotel. "But I made him promise to write out a cheque and reimburse me if I didn't like it," Touché.

Busy line

Whilst we Brits are still whingeing about BT, telephone-users across the Soviet Union, including the KGB, are looking forward to a small

UK car makers praised

By Colin Narborough

Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, yesterday praised the British motor industry at the Frankfurt Motor Show, pointing out that it is staging a big recovery and winning back lost export markets.

British manufacturers are now competitive on price, quality and delivery and the multi-nationals are showing renewed confidence in Britain as a production base, he said.

The British components industry has made great strides in the past few years and is now well placed to compete in international markets.

"It is heartening to see British firms supplying parts for cars such as Mercedes and Volkswagen, since West German manufacturers only buy the best," Mr Clark said.

West Germany is Britain's largest overseas market for automotive components and the Department of Trade and



Alan Clark: 'competitive on price, quality and delivery'

Industry is working closely with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to bring together component makers and senior buyers from the West German automotive industry.

"Given the opportunity, I am confident that British

suppliers can meet the demands of the German market as many have already shown — and increased their sales to 'your vehicle manufacturers', he said.

But components were by no means the whole story, he noted. Sales of leading British car manufacturers to the West German market are "booming." The Rover Group's exports to this demanding market rose by 90 per cent last year and are continuing.

The reduction in the penetration by imports of the domestic market for new cars to just above 50 per cent from nearly 60 per cent only two years ago, is another important result of British industry's improved competitiveness, Mr Clark said.

Industrial disputes, which used to dog the British motor industry, had fallen dramatically, with Rover last year enjoying 99.9 per cent strike-free working.

World Bank says 15 states in Africa are near collapse

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Fifteen of the poorest countries in Africa are close to total collapse as a result of rising debt, plummeting living standards, and low commodity prices, the World Bank said in its annual report yesterday.

In spite of attempts by governments to implement structural adjustment programmes negotiated with the bank, growth has proved elusive and the situation is now critical.

On the eve of its annual meeting with the International Monetary Fund the bank reiterated the need for a substantial general capital increase in funds from donor nations to ensure its lending programme does not run out of money.

The "headroom" in the bank's regular lending programme shrank in 1987 from \$18.8 billion (£11.53 billion) to \$14.1 billion.

The persistence of the debt problem continued to retard the progress of heavily indebted middle income countries and of African nations, the report said.

There was strong momentum for reforms that would produce economic growth in the developing world even in the face of rising political and social tensions, the report said. To this end, the bank increased its lending for structural adjustment programmes to 23 per cent from 19 per cent of the total in 1986.

But the adjustment has come at a high cost particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The bank said a review of the medium term prospects of countries which have adjustment programmes revealed that some face dismal growth rates from 1987 through 1990

which will be below the rate of population growth.

African nations which borrowed money to ride out what they thought would be a temporary fall in commodity prices are caught in a cycle in which debt growth is outpacing real economic growth.

The bank is increasing funds to Africa from its International Development Agency and special Africa facility to \$4 billion in 1988 from \$2.7 billion in the last fiscal year.

Overall, in fiscal 1988, loan approvals from the bank are expected to range between \$14 billion and \$15.5 billion while new credits from IDA are expected to total \$4.2 billion. This compared to lending of \$14.2 billion in the 1987 fiscal year and IDA credits of \$3.5 billion.

Buckley's accepts Brodian's raised bid

By Alison Eadie

The acrimonious bid battle for Buckley's Brewery took a surprising turn yesterday when the board of the South Wales brewer agreed to an increased offer from Brodian, the nominee company controlled by Mr Peter Clowes and Mr Guy von Cramer.

The offer has been raised to 192p cash a share from 185p, valuing Buckley's at £29.1 million.

Mr Colin Thomas, the managing director of Buckley's, will keep his position, but Mr Griffith Phillips, the chairman, and the two non-executive directors will step down.

Mr Thomas said that although the board had been very suspicious of the bid initially, the assurances given by Mr Clowes and Mr von Cramer guaranteeing the future of the brewery in Llanelli and safeguarding employees' jobs helped bring the two sides together.

Mr Thomas also said the 192p price was one the board felt it should recommend to shareholders.

Shares in Buckley's shot up to 220p in the market yesterday before falling back to 202p.

Mr von Cramer admitted to being slightly nervous about the share price moving ahead of the cash offer, but he felt confident the bid would go unconditional next week.

He said Buckley's would be used aggressively as a vehicle for expansion.

Mr von Cramer intends to buy additional public houses and hotels in Wales and the rest of Britain and to broaden the company's base to include restaurants, off-licences and leisure-orientated activities.

Brazil plan on debt-equity ready soon

Brasilia (Reuters) — Brazil expects to complete its plan for debt-equity conversions about the end of this month with a final decision shortly after, a senior Central Bank official said yesterday.

Foreign bank creditors have been anxiously awaiting details of the new rules for conversion, after approvals were suspended on July 22.

A total of \$367 million in debt conversions were approved up until July with a 12-year minimum before capital can be repatriated. Bankers say at least another \$450 million are in the pipeline.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Genius of the grand design at Guinness

The pivotal issue facing Mr Anthony Tennant when he took over as chief executive of Guinness was straightforward. It was the need to restore the flagging fortunes of the Distillers brands in overseas markets. Mr Tennant swiftly took other actions — the disposal of retailing and other non-core activities — in order to provide some financial resources and free top management so that it could concentrate on the prime objective of reversing the debilitating decline in Distillers' share of the world Scotch market which had steadily demoralised the group in its pre-Guinness days. With close on 1,700 distributors all over the world, it was bound to prove a challenging task.

Yesterday's move to acquire Schenley is all of a piece with the Tennant grand design. First it secures direct control over the group's two most important brands in the US market, Dewar's whisky and Gordons gin. These are the keys to future profitability in the US. Secondly, the Schenley acquisition eliminates another uncertainty for investors and a potentially long and costly legal battle with Schenley's colourful boss Mr Meshulam Riklis over the distribution agreements and the trademarks of Dewar's and Gordons.

The exact nature of the arrangements struck between Riklis and the former Guinness management were deeply unclear and hotly disputed. The need for expensive litigation has now been removed. Importantly so far as luckless Guinness investors are concerned, Mr Riklis has apparently agreed to dispose of some 30 million shares acquired controversially last year in an orderly

fashion, thus removing another cloud over the share price.

As a corporate diversification, Schenley is well suited to the talents of its new chief executive, who made his reputation at the IDV division of Grand Metropolitan by devising a steady stream of new products, packaging and promoting them into new and highly profitable business.

In recent years, Schenley has proved to be an admirably effective operator on behalf of Distillers, winning for Dewar's the coveted status of best-selling imported premium Scotch in the US market. Schenley, as the sixth-largest US wine and spirits distributor, gives Guinness a strategic position in the all-important North American market. The logic of moving downstream, nearer to the consumer, is clear. It should not only make it easier for Guinness to maximise its profitability on its well-established brands, but will also provide opportunities to strengthen lesser known products in the now-enlarged Guinness-Schenley portfolio.

Looking further afield Schenley has the third-largest Bourbon business, including the number one brand in Japan. Confidence and better morale is returning to the group. Bain, the management consultancy is unlikely to retain its position as a permanent adviser on the day-to-day operations of the business for much longer, although consultants will continue to be used for specific projects.

Financially, the deal should also be applauded by Guinness shareholders. It has been done at a price which is line with other similar groups in the US and will enhance earnings almost from day one.

Economy on course

In relative terms, it was hard not to agree with the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, when he said yesterday: "The way I read recent indicators the economy is doing very well."

Yesterday's unemployment figures recorded the fourteenth successive monthly fall with a seasonally adjusted drop, bigger than the average for recent months, of 43,300 to 2.83 million. Vacancies continued to rise and unemployment to fall in all regions, though in absolute terms total unemployment at 10.2 per cent remains at a very high level.

With this kind of performance markets will inevitably scrutinize every scintilla of information for evidence of renewed inflationary pressures. Yesterday's average earnings figures were relatively reassuring from this point of view with no change in the underlying annual increase for the whole economy at 7.75 per cent. Markets compare the latest piece of evidence with the last, and gilt-edged prices duly rose, but

earnings growth at this level can only be justified by growth in productivity.

Even more important from a market point of view was the news that Britain's current balance of payments is now thought to have been in surplus during the first six months of the year rather than in modest deficit. Whether the new numbers will bear the weight of interpretation put on them is a moot point. Central Statistical Office estimates of Britain's balance of payments on invisible trade are notoriously flexible, and have been even more flexible than usual over the past 12 months. The story this time is that net earnings from interest, profits and dividends have been running at a higher level than previously thought both in the first and second quarters. But whatever precise figures are eventually settled upon, the level of current account deficit in prospect over the next 18 months does not look intimidating for a country with overseas capital assets as large as Britain's now are.

APV BAKER PLC INTERIM RESULTS

From the statement by the Chairman, Sir Ronald McIntosh KCB:

"Your company continues to make good progress and the prospects are encouraging."

"With a high level of orders in hand at the end of June and good order prospects in the main business segments, the outlook for the second half of the year and the carry forward into 1988 is promising."

"The integration of Baker Perkins into the enlarged group

has gone extremely well. The potential benefits of the merger have been widely recognised and this has made it possible to implement necessary changes quickly and effectively. Motivation throughout the group is high."

"With the recent acquisitions in the United

Kingdom, the USA, Denmark and Germany, APV Baker now enjoys a broader base than any of its competitors. No one industry segment dominates the product portfolio; there are modern manufacturing facilities on both sides of the Atlantic, and sales in North America and continental Europe are of comparable magnitude. This should provide useful protection against fluctuations in individual markets and currencies."

"In the last 18 months, your company's share price has more than trebled. The Directors are recommending a 5 for 1 share split."

(A copy of the full interim announcement is available on request from The Secretary, APV Baker PLC, Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2GZ.)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (Half year figures unaudited)	Half year to 30 June		Year to 31 Dec 1986
	1987	1986	£m
Sales	298	195	417
Profit before taxation	16.2	10.8	27.5
Earnings per ordinary share	22.1p	20.9p	52.5p
Dividend per ordinary share	8p	7p	12p

Beevoring for charity

The vision of two middle-aged City gents dangling precariously from a rope over a cliff face sounds like a scene from a silent movie. And it becomes more comical still once you learn that the two men in question were Cazenove partner Stephen Carden and the Director-General-elect of the Takeover Panel, Antony Beever. "It was all in a good cause," chuckles softly-spoken, bespectacled Beever, 47.

It took place on an Outward Bound course for underprivileged inner city youngsters, organised by charity Fairbridge Drake — of which Carden is chairman.

And Fairbridge is also responsible for Beever's curious appointment as chairman of a Fulham garden centre, offering two-year training courses in retailing or landscaping for the unemployed. Beever and his wife, Cecilia, a former secretary to Sir Geoffrey Howe, were yesterday in the process of moving house from Pimlico to Fulham, allowing him to keep a closer eye on the centre. "But I still can't tell the difference between an antirrhinum and an aspidistra," admits Beever, who, at 6ft 6in will at least be able to look the Panel's 6ft 7in chairman Robert Alexander almost straight in the eye.

My favourite headline of the week is: "Tax inspector gives blood." Whose?

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mercs for the Turks

The Square Mile's champagne-swilling young Turks, who wouldn't be seen dead driving anything other than a BMW or Porsche, are being asked to think again. In its first big sales push into the upper echelons of that lucrative market, Mercedes-Benz is hoping to take the City by storm. Its small, sporty 190 range, introduced here three years ago, has now been beefed up by the addition of a fuel-injection six-cylinder model, comparable to BMW's 325i, and the entire 190 range

taste of the standards we take for granted — if a deal now under negotiation with the Spanish telephone monopoly, Telefonica, is agreed. Señor Luis Solana, the Telefonica chairman, revealed in London that talks on a joint venture to



"Can't see many punters stepping water this year"

build a plant at Perm, 1,000 kilometres east of Moscow, were nearing completion. An agreement is expected to be signed in Moscow next month. The Russians, who will control 51 per cent of the new company, will invest £5 million in the plant, producing Spanish Taxis telephone sets. It will also manufacture coin-operated telephones, still apparently in short supply. ● Beginners' luck. In its first ever foray into sponsorship, merchant bank Kleinwort Grosvenor has emerged wholly triumphant. It sponsored the British team in the world dingly racing championships in Japan — on the grounds that the sponsorship would cost less than the £20,000 for a full-page advertisement in the Financial Times — and found it a heartening experience when the British team won all 14 of the races.

Road tax in France 'unfair'

Luxembourg (Reuters) — The European Court of Justice has ruled that France's road tax discriminates against powerful cars imported from other European Economic Community countries and must be changed.

The court had been told that, while owners of top French cars paid Fr1,729 (£174) under the system in 1985, drivers of some foreign cars were charged Fr8,758, due to a graded scale of payments which rises particularly steeply for vehicles of above-average horsepower.

France has already modified the system once at the court's insistence. In 1985, it replaced an arrangement under which cars above 3.1 litres, the size of the biggest French-made cars, faced a large surcharge.

But the court has now ruled that even the present sliding scale of payments is unfair to several car makers in other EEC countries.

Extra tax wipes out rise in John Fairfax earnings

Sydney (Reuters) — John Fairfax, the media group, said yesterday that a 33.4 per cent jump in its tax expense in the 1986-87 year ended on June 28 produced the 5.9 per cent decline in net earnings to Aus\$42.91 million (£19.07 million) from Aus\$44.84 million in 1985-86.

Pre-tax earnings rose to Aus\$80.88 million from Aus\$74.11 million but the gain was more than wiped out by the rise in tax to Aus\$38.47 million from Aus\$28.85 million, Fairfax said.

This reflected the rise in the company tax rate to 49 per cent from 46 per cent, the non-deductibility of entertainment expenses and the new employer-paid fringe benefits tax, a lower investment allowance and some tax losses on foreign acquisitions.

Fairfax, whose chairman is Mr James Fairfax, said it considered the net profit satisfactory in view of the rise



Satisfied with the profits: James Fairfax, the chairman in tax and a very sharp decline in the earnings of its television stations, sold to Universal Telecasters for Aus\$780 million since the balance date. It said the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Melbourne, and Australian Financial Review daily newspapers, its magazines and local newspapers all increased earnings in the year.

However, earnings of the Macquarie radio network de-

clined due to the costs of introducing a satellite service, it said.

Its wholly-owned David Syme and Co unit earned Aus\$37.94 million pre-tax without giving a 1985-86 figure.

Fairfax said its Aus\$90.99 million net extraordinary profit mainly comprised a Aus\$96.11 million capital dividend from Australian Associated Press after the sale of AAP's remaining Reuters Holdings 8 shares.

Fairfax's statement made no mention of the proposed Aus\$2.25 billion takeover bid and privatization plan announced on August 31 by Tryart, controlled by Mr Warwick Fairfax, a member of the company's founding family.

As previously reported, Tryart plans to offer Aus\$7.50 or three shares in a reduced and enlarged David Syme plus Aus\$4.50 cash for each share.

Profits leap 388% at Abaco

By Alison Eadie

Abaco Investments, the highly acquisitive financial services company, registered a spectacular 388 per cent profit increase to £6.5 million in the year to end-June and the total dividend was doubled to 0.4p.

The result was ahead of analysts' expectations, although the shares were largely unmoved at about 105p.

Profits this year are expected to at least double to £13 million as the contribution from acquisitions swells. Abaco has made 26 acquisitions since July last year and 12 since the end of June this year.

Mr Cameron Brown, the company's chief executive, said the results did not reflect the earnings capacity of Abaco because of the number of recent acquisitions.

He added that earnings per share last year increased by 124 per cent to 2.31p, despite the amount of paper issued to finance the buying spree.

The largest profit came from the residential estate agency business, which made a £3 million contribution on a turnover of £14.9 million.

But the commercial estate agency was the most profitable division, contributing £1.6 million on turnover of £3.6 million. Mr Brown said the buoyancy of the commercial property market and the number of big deals effected produced large margins.

Plea to Baker for engineering funds

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

The Government is coming under increasing pressure to allocate more money for another 1,700 degree courses in engineering after promises of widespread support came from industry.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, has given a favourable response to the Engineering Council's proposals for more places and the National Advisory Body for Public Sector Higher Education has provisionally allocated the funds.

With interest growing among employers, the council is hoping for a positive decision from Mr Baker on what it calls "an industry-led initiative".

It is also seeking endorsement of its proposal that universities and polytechnics should concentrate on courses for manufacturing systems engineering (MSE).

Dr Kenneth Miller, the council's director general, has

written to his 180 industrial affiliates — including most of Britain's leading manufacturers — calling for co-operation in informing polytechnics of their needs and the likely number of students they can sponsor.

"Things are moving fast," he said. The NAB is asking polytechnics to submit their proposals for additional courses in MSE for consideration in the next few weeks. The first courses are planned for the 1988-89 academic year.

"This is one of the most exciting developments to have taken place in higher education recently," said Dr Miller. This year, the council called on the Government to provide a further 1,700 places on first degree and post-graduate courses in engineering.

The bias should be on MSE, it said, "because it lies at the root of increasing the international competitiveness of Britain's manufacturing industry".

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Visa to test 'super card'

Visa International will begin testing its "super-smart card" among 2,000 Japanese Visa card holders next April. The card, developed with Toshiba Corp, combines a micro-computer chip and a calculator-like keyboard for credit, current and savings accounts and other functions.

Visa hopes card holders will be able to use the card for telephone shopping transactions, with special telephones designed to read them. Eventually, card holders may be able to buy and sell shares with the card, which would execute the transaction by telephone.

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ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey 1,983	Cadbury 2,242	L & G 4,242	Sainsbury 5,388
Admiral 4,525	Coats 3,467	Lloyds 2,004	Scott & N 383
Amstrad 2,483	CU 6,055	Loxley 2,087	Seas 3,295
ASDA 6,571	Cons Gold 875	Lucas 1,618	Sevens 2,778
US Foods 165	Coolson 1,05	M & S 3,642	Shell 2,992
Anglo 1/4	Courtauld 1,730	M&P 1,858	Shell & N 2,568
BAA 18,288	Deputy 378	Metal Box 4,445	STC 2,749
B&Q 510	De 6,025	Medial 3,130	Stear Chart 161
BTR 2,788	Dixons 1,407	MaxWest 1,915	Storehouse 4,445
BAT 1,964	ECC 1,898	Nest 2,414	Sun Alliance 382
Barclays 2,580	Fisons 1,412	P & O 1,288	T&A 1,400
B&S 957	Gen Acc 459	Peat 600	Tarmac 2,333
Bechtel 3,241	GEC 3,911	Pearson 503	T&B 1,700
B&Q 345	Globe 2,472	Pleasance 8,567	Tesco 5,571
Blue Circle 2,582	Globe 2,472	Pleasance 8,567	Thorn EMI 3,818
B&Q 1,317	Granada 914	Prudential 678	Trafalgar 6,185
Boots 1,809	Grand Met 1,805	Racal 2,558	Travel 3,313
B&Q 1,317	Granada 914	R & H 1,580	Unilever 1,110
Br Aero 1,336	GPE 424	Rank 184	Unigate 1,808
Br Airways 8,825	GN 1,780	R & C 705	Unilever 1,808
Br Comm 2,155	Galehouse 11,125	Reed 2,292	United E 1,299
Br Gas 10,584	Hamm A 287	Reed 2,292	Unid News 2,102
Br Petrol 10,004	Hamm A 287	Reed 2,292	Unid News 2,102
B&Q 165	Hamm A 287	Reed 2,292	Unid News 2,102
Br Telecom 5,566	Hilldown 3,200	RITZ 2,088	Walls Fab 1,585
Brill 3,638	ICI 1,281	R-Royce 8,400	Woolworth 1,486
B&Q 1,289	Jaguar 2,004	Roumire 2,552	
Burnet 373	Lamson 78	Royal Bank 1,558	
Burton 3,989	Ladbroke 254	Royal Ins 1,374	
CAW 1,273	Land Sec 678	Satchi 1,354	

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Dec 87	88.65	88.75	88.55	88.70	559
Mar 88	88.65	88.75	88.55	88.78	464
Jun 88	88.65	88.75	88.55	88.72	171
Sep 88	88.65	88.75	88.55	88.65	52
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	88.53	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	88.45	0
Jun 89	NT	NT	NT	88.40	0
Sep 89	NT	NT	NT	88.40	0
Previous day's total open interest 15310					
Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Dec 87	91.63	91.69	91.59	91.63	4774
Mar 88	91.17	91.21	91.13	91.17	725
Jun 88	90.98	91.03	90.98	91.00	886
Sep 88	90.98	91.03	90.98	91.00	35
Dec 88	90.50	90.57	90.50	90.53	12
Mar 89	90.35	90.38	90.35	90.38	1
Jun 89	90.22	90.22	90.22	90.25	5
Sep 89	NT	NT	NT	90.25	0
Previous day's total open interest 26946					
US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 87	82.44	82.44	82.44	82.44	325
Dec 87	82.44	82.44	82.44	82.44	7678
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	81.16	0
Previous day's total open interest 7419					
Long Gilt	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 87	114.54	114.54	114.54	114.54	147
Dec 87	114.11	114.11	114.11	114.11	3834
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	115.16	0
Jun 88	NT	NT	NT	115.16	0
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	115.16	0
Previous day's total open interest 32006					
FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Sep 87	227.40	230.00	227.40	229.90	1385
Dec 87	232.50	235.00	232.50	235.00	275
Previous day's total open interest 8275					
Japanese Government Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Dec 87	100.30	100.44	100.30	100.35	489
Mar 88	98.70	98.75	98.70	98.75	10
Previous day's total open interest 734					

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates day's range	Market rates day's range	1 month	3 months
New York 1.5440-1.5480	September 17 1.5485-1.5475	0.30-0.27p/m	0.34-0.30p/m
London 2.1820-2.1850	September 17 2.1843-2.1873	0.15-0.08p/m	0.24-0.23p/m
Paris 6.3800-6.3850	September 17 6.3825-6.3875	10-10p/m	3%-3p/m
Brussels 61.97-62.20	September 17 61.99-62.11	20-15p/m	5%-4p/m
Frankfurt 11.4950-11.5200	September 17 11.4950-11.5081	10p/m-10p/m	10p/m-10p/m
Dusseldorf 11.1274-11.1373	September 17 11.1281-11.1373	10p/m-10p/m	10p/m-10p/m
Frankfurt 2.9850-2.9920	September 17 2.9850-2.9920	1%-1p/m	4%-4p/m
Lisbon 254.78-256.20	September 17 255.04-256.08	85-185ds	257-341ds
Madrid 185.70-186.30	September 17 185.70-186.30	10-10p/m	24-24p/m
Milan 2155.88-2161.80	September 17 2155.88-2161.80	7-11ds	20-24ds
Oslo 10.9225-10.9373	September 17 10.9225-10.9373	3%-3p/m	10-10p/m
Paris 9.8762-9.8775	September 17 9.8762-9.8775	1%-1p/m	4%-4p/m
Stockholm 10.4940-10.5200	September 17 10.4940-10.5200	3-4p/m	1%-1p/m
Vienna 235.70-237.01	September 17 235.70-237.01	1%-1p/m	3%-3p/m
Zurich 2.4700-2.4825	September 17 2.4700-2.4825	1%-1p/m	5%-5p/m

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up at 73.2 (day's range 73.1-73.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates day's range	Market rates day's range	1 month	3 months
Argentina austral 4.0299-4.0548	September 17 4.0299-4.0548	1.4755-1.4785	
Australia dollar 2.3480-2.3490	September 17 2.3480-2.3490	2.0900-2.0910	
Bahian dollar 0.6195-0.6225	September 17 0.6195-0.6225	2.0405-2.0415	
Brazil cruzeiro 81.3930-82.4495	September 17 81.3930-82.4495	0.7328-0.7333	
Cyprus pound 1.70-1.70	September 17 1.70-1.70	1.3150-1.3155	
Finland markka 7.2125-7.2225	September 17 7.2125-7.2225	1.3150-1.3155	
Greece drachma 12.8200-12.8225	September 17 12.8200-12.8225	6.6450-6.6500	
Hong Kong dollar 7.2500-7.2525	September 17 7.2500-7.2525	6.6450-6.6500	
India rupee 21.27-21.47	September 17 21.27-21.47	1.8135-1.8142	
Israeli sheqel 4.8510-4.8550	September 17 4.8510-4.8550	1.5042-1.5054	
Malaysia dollar 1.6500-1.6511	September 17 1.6500-1.6511	1.9005-1.9010	
Mexico peso 2.4910-2.4940	September 17 2.4910-2.4940	6.0475-6.0525	
New Zealand dollar 2.5915-2.5922	September 17 2.5915-2.5922	143.40-143.50	
Saudi Arabia riyal 6.1505-6.1525	September 17 6.1505-6.1525	143.40-143.50	
Singapore dollar 3.4420-3.4460	September 17 3.4420-3.4460	57.85-57.88	
South Africa rand 4.4450-4.4466	September 17 4.4450-4.4466	7.8625-7.8635	
Switzerland franc 3.2225-3.2313	September 17 3.2225-3.2313	121.25-121.42	
U.A.E. dirham 6.625-6.635	September 17 6.625-6.635	12.75-12.78	
Yugoslavia dinar			

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank, HOPEX and Ecol.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Berisford (S&W)	Food	
2	Copson PLC	Buildings/Roads	
3	Tomkins (FH)	Industrials S-Z	
4	Laird	Industrials L-R	
5	Hill Samuel	Banks/Discount	
6	Triton Europe	Oil & Gas	
7	Ayrshire Metal	Industrials A-D	
8	Amstrad (na)	Electronics	
9	BTR (na)	Industrials A-D	
10	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	
11	Pearson (na)	Industrials L-R	
12	Joseph (Leopold)	Banks/Discount	
13	Norton Opax	Paper/Print/Adv	
14	Argus Secs	Finance	
15	Barnett Devs	Buildings/Roads	
16	KLP	Paper/Print/Adv	
17	Coates Bros	Chemicals/Pha	
18	Unigrip	Industrials S-Z	
19	Hawley Sidley (na)	Industrials L-R	
20	Barton (na)	Drugs/Pha	
21	Costain	Buildings/Roads	
22	Lawrence (Walter)	Buildings/Roads	
23	Kwik Save	Food	
24	Mucklow (A&J)	Property	
25	Copson (F)	Industrials A-D	
26	Macarthy	Industrials L-R	
27	Coast	Industrials A-D	
28	Baker Harris	Electronics	
29	STC (na)	Electronics	
30	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
31	Nobo Co	Industrials L-R	
32	Fosco-Munsey	Chemicals/Pha	
33	Crest Nicholson	Industrials A-D	
34	BBA	Industrials A-D	
35	Waddington (J)	Paper/Print/Adv	
36	Briton (na)	Oil & Gas	
37	Lee (Arthur)	Industrials L-R	
38	Barclays (na)	Banks/Discount	
39	Bund (na)	Paper/Print/Adv	
40	Chadbury-Schwab (na)	Food	
41	Rotork	Industrials L-R	
42	DFCE	Industrials A-D	
43	Hilldown (na)	Food	
44	Redington	Beverages	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS			
1987	High	Low	Stock

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1987	High	Low	Stock

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Stock

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Stock

UNDATED			
1987	High	Low	Stock

INDEX-LINKED			
1987	High	Low	Stock

BANKS DISCOUNT HP			
1987	High	Low	Stock

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Strong advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end September 25. Contango day September 28. Settlement day October 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (na) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICALS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FOODS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICALS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FOODS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICALS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FOODS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

ELECTRICALS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

BUILDINGS AND ROADS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FINANCE AND LAND									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

FOODS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

CINEMAS AND TV									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

HOTELS AND CATERERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

Portfolio
Gold

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£12,000

Claims required for
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

PROPERTY									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

SHIPPING									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

SHOES AND LEATHER									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

TEXTILES									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

TOBACCO									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

OIL & GAS									
1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield	P/E

Ex dividend a Ex all a Forecast dividend a Interim payment passed a Price at suspension a Dividend and yield exclude a special payment a Pre-merger figures a Forecast earnings a Ex other a Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split a Tax-free ... No significant data

Unit Trust Name	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986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RACING: AYR GOLD CUP FAVOURITE FANCIED TO BRUSH ASIDE WELTER BURDEN WITH GROUND CONDITIONS IN HIS FAVOUR

Going should be perfect for Umbelata

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Unoriginal choice that he may be, Umbelata is selected to win today's Ladbrokes Ayr Gold Cup now that there is plenty of give in the ground.

Instead of going to Doncaster eight days ago to watch him contest the Portland Handicap, owner Geoffrey Greenwood went to Salisbury where he had Pea Green running for him.

At the Wiltshire track, Mr Greenwood told me that, while he expected Umbelata to run well in the Doncaster sprint, he would have been

fancying him a great deal more if only the going had been soft instead of good.

And he added that his much improved four-year-old would take all the beating in the world in today's big sprint if only the right conditions underfoot were to come his way. And they have.

As it was, Umbelata still ran a mighty race at Doncaster to finish a close third behind Dawn's Delight and Powder Blue. On slightly better terms and, more vitally, on ground that he will relish, Umbelata looks poised to take revenge on them now.

The main dangers could be

Macrobian and Casbah Girl, both of whom have been lightly-raced this season and today will be raring to go.

Today's nap is Jimmy Jack to win the Keith Aspland Memorial EBF Stakes. Last time out at York he was out of his depth when taking on Crown Ridge, Oriole Line, Wood Chisel and Proceed On in the valuable Garroby Stakes. Yet he still managed to finish in front of Pispied, Mr Pimples and Beech - an achievement in itself.

Before that, Roger Fisher's promising young stayer had won very easily over today's course and distance, and at

Catterick, and I think that today's race represents an ideal opportunity for him to pick up the winning thread again.

Today's meeting at Newbury features two sponsored races for two-year-olds which invariably have an impact on the future. Last year, for instance, the Stable Stud and Farm East Stakes was won by that very good filly Milligram.

Now I have the feeling that the beautifully-bred Antigua Rose (she is by Mill Reef out of Rose Bowl) will be hard to beat following that promising

run behind Haiati and Red Guitars at Kempton.

Two seasons ago Michael Stoute chose the Haynes, Hanson and Clark Stakes to introduce his subsequent Derby winner Shahrastani to the hurly burly of the race track. This time he will be bleeding One From Above, who is very closely related indeed to Milligram and by all accounts pretty promising too.

Of those who have run already, Unfufuwa stands out, even though he was beaten by his supposedly inferior stable companion Munster Son when both made their debuts on the track last month.

Cautheon on stand-by to partner Tancred Sand has Doncaster target

By Michael Seely

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Paris

Steve Cautheon will ride Miesque in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on September 26 if Freddie Head is unavailable.

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AYR

By Mandarin

2.30 JINXY JACK (nap). 3.00 General Silky. 3.35 Belle Canine. 4.10 Umbelata. 4.40 Pimples. 5.10 Albacore.

By Michael Seely

3.35 Marley Supalite. 4.10 Powder Blue (nap). The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 DAWN'S DELIGHT.

Going: good to soft

Draw: low numbers best

2.30 KEITH ASPLAND MEMORIAL EBF STAKES (3:18.1m) (8 runners)

2 (2) 110110 JINXY JACK (nap) (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 3 (3) 00000 COCK SPARROW (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 4 (4) 00000 MARLEY SUPALITE (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 5 (5) 00000 ROSE TABLEAU (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 6 (6) 00000 SCOTTISH FLAME (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 7 (7) 00000 ZEPHYRUS (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5. 8 (8) 00000 LUCYAN (M) M. J. McNamee (R) 9-5-5.

BETTING: 2-1 Jinx Jack, 5-2 Marley Supalite, 5-1 Cock Sparrow, 11-2 Marley Supalite, 10-1 Redcliffe, 10-1 Lucan.

1986

OLYMPIC GAMES

Sponsors have three ways to pay for a name that will stick

Nakiska, Alberta

Deonis Conner regained the America's Cup in some measure thanks to the hull of Stars and Stripes having a drug-resistant synthetic surface, made by one of the world's largest manufacturing companies, of which few people have heard. Readers may well, unknowingly, record some of next year's Olympic Games on videotape made by the same manufacturer.

Indeed, half of the world probably wraps up their Christmas presents with this company's sticky tape, and still without being conscious of them. Clearly, 3M has a public awareness problem. This is particularly so in Europe, and that is why some 20 journalists from Western Europe are gathered here, by invitation, in the breathtaking autumn surroundings of the centre for Alpine events at Calgary's Winter Olympic Games next February, for a marketing conference.

The Olympic Games would not exist today without massive global corporate sponsorship. 3M, which has 50,000 different products, is attempting to resolve its public anonymity by joining its handful of household brand names to the Olympic rings logo for packaging and promotion. The company hopes that its purchase of the events rights — through the ISI group that co-ordinates marketing for FIFA and the IOC — will reinforce its identity.

Market research shows a remarkable average consumer preference, of around three to one, for merchandise carrying the Olympic symbol as opposed to any rival not carrying it: in France, 47 per cent to 17 per cent; West Germany 63 to 30; Britain 54 to eight; Italy 74 to 21; Spain 47 to nine.

Sponsor may stay until 21st century

However, buying into the Olympic market still leaves 3M and its 50 international subsidiaries, or indeed any other newcomer company, with a problem. The four-year rights period from 1985 to 1988, covering Calgary and Seoul, will be inadequate to achieve their objective; and they are being advised by consultants how best to maintain an awareness programme through the sporting vehicle.

The advice, at this stage, is either to stay with the Olympic programme till at least the year 2000 (another three summer and four winter Olympics, with the switch to alternate two-year periods from 1994); or enter the Formula One motor-racing market; to go for a new, developing and under-sponsored sport, volleyball, in which exclusive rights could be purchased; or to acquire over a period of several years the shirt advertisements with

IOC wants Soviet help

Lausanne (AP) — Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday he wants to meet Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, to discuss North Korea's demands to serve as joint hosts of the 1988 Summer Games.

But Kim Chong-ha, the South Korean Olympic Committee president, ruled out the possibility of talks with the North over the issue — a year before the

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

the top six to eight European football clubs such as Real Madrid, Barcelona, Juventus and Bayern Munich.

Three of the alternatives, the Olympics, volleyball and football, are estimated to require an approximately equivalent payment of \$3 million (£1.8 million) per year to the sport. Formula One is substantially more: \$8 million annually for a part-car sponsorship, \$20 million for a whole car.

Formula One is ad-man's dream

But, and it is an important distinction, the Formula One price includes VIP hospitality sites at grand prix tracks, on-course advertising boards, and a fixed guarantee of television exposure time from various camera positions, because the grand prix organizers, directed by Bernie Ecclestone, own the television signal, except at Monte Carlo and Monza. Formula One is the ad-man's dream.

Sponsorship of the Olympic Games, on the other hand, is an almost open-ended expense. Buying the logo, for between \$8 million and \$15 million for a four-year cycle, provides no site advertisement or hospitality facilities. Exploitation of the logo has to come with massive television advertising and sales promotion. 3M's gross investment for 1985-88 is \$33 million; and this is estimated only to be justified if extended over a 16-year period (ie x 4).

Such a colossal investment leads 3M's advisers to suggest, perhaps rather oddly, the volleyball alternative. Here would be available what is termed "clear brand identity" — no rivals. There are said to be 50 million players world-wide, and the president of the International Volleyball Federation, Dr Reuben Acosta, is said to be willing to alter the structure and name of some international tournaments in return for a \$3 million per annum sponsorship.

Understandably, 3M is in a dilemma. Football is over-subscribed, volleyball is as yet unknown as 3M itself. Formula One is expensive, the Olympic is a gamble. Selling fluorocarbon — high performance synthetic rubber aircraft seals subject to extreme chemical and temperature conditions — is not quite like selling Coke or a film for Johnny's Instantatic. There is more to this Olympic business than meets the eye.

Games are to open in Seoul

"The IOC has the honour to invite the 167 national Olympic committees to participate in the Games of the twenty-fourth Olympiad, which will take place at Seoul from September 17 to October 2," the invitation, signed by Samaranch, read.

The IOC has conducted four rounds of talks between North and South, offering Pyongyang a five-sport package last July.

TABLE TENNIS

Douglas keen to add to his collection

By a Special Correspondent

Desmond Douglas will be trying to win a major invitation title at the Wembley Conference Centre for the fourth time in the Leeds Masters today and tomorrow. With a record 10 national championships and a European Top 12 title, as well as an MBE, under his belt, it might be time at the age of 33 for him to lose a little ambition. However, nothing seems further from the truth.

In training camps the slim frame has been as light-footed as ever and the characteristic furrow on his brow just as deeply concentrated. He still practises those whippy, short-arm loops longer than anyone. "I don't think extrinsic factors such as fame and winning titles affect him," England's head of coaching and selection, Donald Parker, says. "I think he just loves playing table tennis."

The Leeds Masters is not just a novel concept providing a bright start to a new season. It is seen by many as a new beginning in a wider sense. Table tennis, in the doldrums for the last 10 years, has cause to hope again. The first full-time chief executive has been appointed and a £500,000 sponsorship acquired.

For Wembley, there are four groups of three players who are either national champions or, in the case of Jan-Ove Waldner, of Sweden, and Andraz Grubbic, of Poland, the two top men in Europe.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Kidderminster's future threatened by council

By Paul Newman

David Reynolds, the chairman of Kidderminster Harriers, yesterday warned that further delays in his club's plans for an £8 million redevelopment programme could seriously harm their ambition to win a place in the Football League.

Wyre Forest District Council's planning committee this week deferred until next month a decision on whether to grant outline planning permission for Kidderminster's scheme to build a 2,500 seat stadium, a hotel and conference centre, a sports hall and a community centre at their Aggborough ground. Council members are not yet satisfied with the traffic and parking arrangements.

Having made substantial progress in recent years, including promotion from the Southern League, reaching the final of the Welsh Cup and winning the FA Trophy, Kidderminster are making a determined challenge this season to win the GM Vauxhall Conference and promotion to the fourth division.

However, Mr Reynolds warned: "If we win this championship, our ground is at present just not good enough for the Football League. It would be a terrible embarrassment — for the council as much as anybody — if we got into that situation. I've had these plans for 18

The accusations of drug use made against his fellow-competitors by Carl Lewis at the world athletics championships were typical of most statements about drug abuse in sport: short on fact, long on supposition.

Since evidence of drug-taking in sport first emerged in the 1950s — weightlifters taking anabolic steroids and cyclists taking stimulants — sports authorities have succeeded in creating a vicious circle of ignorance.

Twenty-five years ago, most sports could still command an image of being clean, honest and healthy. So the International Olympic Committee passed a resolution against the use of drugs in 1962 to maintain that image.

The resolution was passed, however, in the absence of any scientific evidence that drugs enhanced performance in any sport. The authorities assumed that drugs must work, since sportsmen used them. As soon as they were banned, sportsmen in turn assumed that drugs must work, since the authorities had banned them.

Whenever anecdotal evidence has since appeared of sportsmen experimenting with a drug, it in turn has been banned. Information on performance enhancement is, in fact, available only on a few members of two of the six classes of drugs banned by the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission (IOMC). The Sports Council in this country bans the same drugs as the IOMC.

The constant, often pejorative, use of the word "drug" disguises the fact that the substances whose use is banned in sport are nearly all medicines with perfectly proper uses in the treatment of disease. Some of them are available over the counter, without a prescription.

They can be divided into "restorative" and "additive" substances. The majority of banned substances are restorative: that is, they could restore a sportsman to normal levels of health and performance, but could not enhance his performance. For only a small minority of the banned substances is there evidence that they might have an additive, or performance-enhancing, effect.

The anabolic steroids — male hormones like testosterone — are the substances most widely used by sportsmen as well as being most



Dr Richard Nicholson (left), the deputy director of the Institute of Medical Ethics and an international target rifle marksman since 1965, puts drug-taking in sport into perspective

widely studied. Yet even with steroids, there are large gaps in our knowledge.

Anabolic steroids increase muscle bulk when taken with an increased protein diet, but the evidence that this alone produces any improvement in performance is equivocal. The most significant effect of these hormones is thought to be psychological: they increase a sportsman's competitiveness so that he can train longer and harder than he would otherwise have done.

Opponents of the use of steroids emphasize their dangerous side-effects. It is generally accepted that the side-effects in adolescents — stunting of growth, for instance, and, in women, various types of masculinization — are substantial problems that should be prevented.

But no scientific evidence exists that anabolic steroid use causes any significant level of side-effects in healthy adult males. The first study of this area, looking at football players and weightlifters who took steroids in the 1970s, started only this year in the United States.

The chief investigator commented: "We don't know what the long-term effects of anabolic steroid use are. The evidence linking them to liver and heart problems is extremely weak."

Three substantial studies have been undertaken on the effects of beta-blockers on shooting performance. Beta-blockers were added to the banned drug list after these studies were performed, yet the studies do not provide unequivocal evidence of performance enhancement in shooting.

Three conclusions could be drawn from the trials: 1. Most of the improvement in shooting scores is a placebo effect; that is, psychological. Give a shooter any inert substance such as chalk in a pill, tell him that it will

help his shooting, and it will do so. 2. Expert shooters gain nothing from beta-blockers (their scores may even drop), while inexperienced shooters improve significantly. This finding argues for the use of beta-blockers in some forms of shooting. The interest in outdoor, long-distance (Bisley-style) shooting is in judging the wind and the light correctly. Use of beta-blockers would make more equal the competitors' abilities mechanically to let off good shots, thus making competition more truly an assessment of wind-judging ability.

3. One unit of alcohol (a measure of spirits, or a half-pint of beer) produces as much improvement in shooting performance as a standard dose of a beta-blocker.

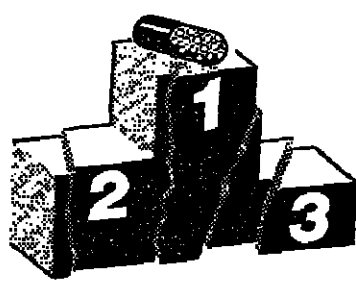
These trials, incidentally, used one beta-blocker only, oxprenolol, which is known to be better at reducing anxiety than most other beta-blockers.

One should not extrapolate the results to a sport like snooker, but, if one did so, one would have to conclude that experts, such as those competing in the world championship earlier this year, would gain no advantage from using beta-blockers.

The other banned drugs are stimulants, narcotic analgesics, diuretics and corticosteroids. There is no evidence that any of these drugs has an additive effect.

There are good grounds for banning amphetamines in the stimulant group, since they can cause loss of judgement, as well as addiction. Caffeine and ephedrine are effective stimulants at high dose only. Low levels of caffeine are therefore permitted, such as one might obtain from drinking tea or coffee. Low levels of ephedrine and similar drugs, such as would result from taking one of the many cold remedies available over the counter, are banned, however.

This illogicality produces a



should have banned alcohol and smoking, since they will kill many more sportsmen than all the drugs put together. And many other drugs apart from beta-blockers — benzodiazepines like Valium, and tricyclic antidepressants, for instance — reduce anxiety, but are not banned.

The only possible conclusion is that the IOMC rules are an illogical mess. There is something awfully reminiscent of Prohibition in the ever more frenzied attempts to outlaw drug-taking.

Yet what purpose does the IOMC wish to achieve? The amount of unfairness introduced by drug-taking is no greater than that of runners using pacemakers, or of a few athletes having access to advanced physiological and sports medicine laboratories.

The taking of restorative drugs is not unfair at all, and the taking of additive drugs introduces such a small element of unfairness that one cannot claim such drug-taking to be unethical.

What is needed is open discussion of drug use between sportsmen and their governing bodies and for those bodies to be allowed to make rules appropriate to each sport.

The Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, is to report soon to the inter-departmental ministerial group on drug abuse. If, as suspected, he recommends that Britain follows some European countries in introducing legislation to outlaw drug use in sport — as was suggested by the Home Office's request to the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs — he must publish the pharmacological evidence to justify such a law. Otherwise it would be an even worse intrusion on individual liberties than Mr Moynihan's previous suggestions.

He has said in Parliament that any sportsman found positive on a drug test, or who refuses a drug test, or even who withdraws from a competition after being selected for testing, should be banned for life from his sport.

Such an attitude does not, unfortunately, suggest that he is likely to take the lead in the informed debate on this problem that is so urgently needed.

This article is a summary of *Drugs in Sport: A Reappraisal*, published by IME Publications, 151 Great Portland Street, London W1N 3PB at £3.

BADMINTON

Fear of a Far East monopoly

By Richard Eaton

The fear of badminton splitting into two camps increased with yesterday's announcement that the 1987 world grand prix finals are in Hong Kong at next year's dates of January 6 to 10.

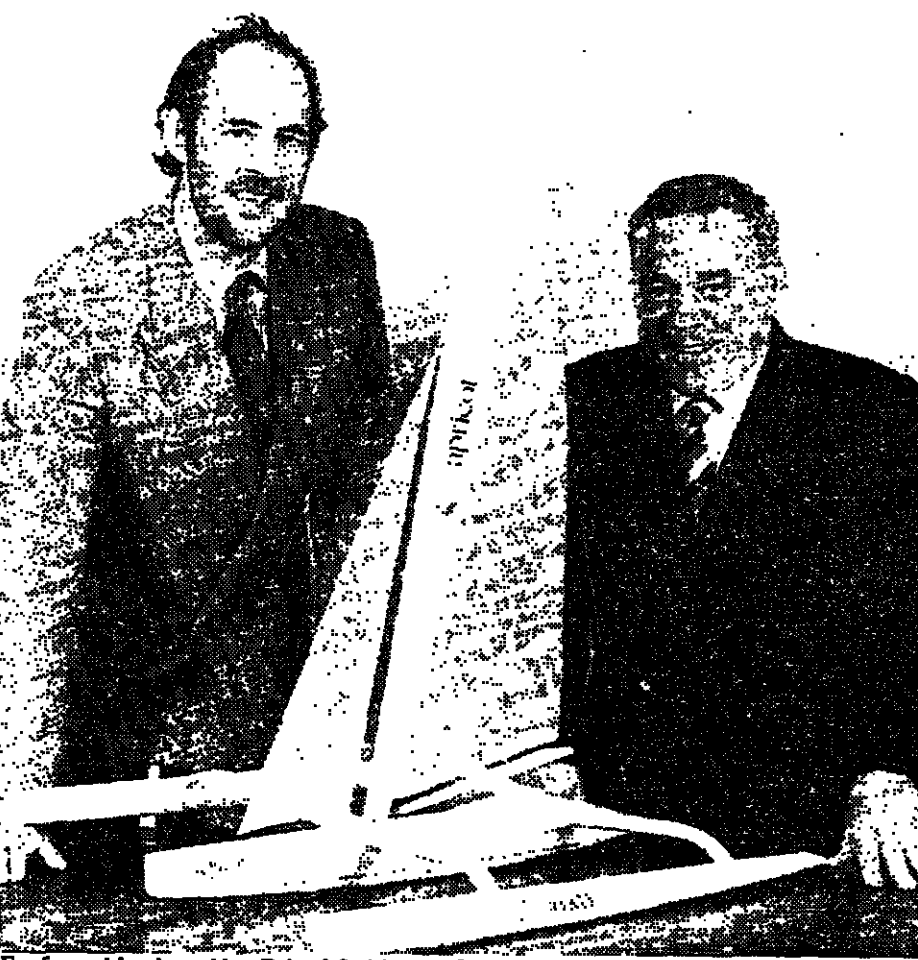
This decision means that 13 major events in succession have gone to the Far East — three world grand prix finals, five World cups, two world championships and three Thomas and Uber Cup finals — and players and officials in this part of the world are increasingly concerned about the harmful effects upon the game in Europe.

The All-England champion, Morten Frost, has warned about the possibility of the European game dying altogether if the lucrative sponsorships and events remain in Asia alone.

Yesterday Steve Baddeley, the Commonwealth and English national champion, said: "This is very disappointing. It's just one event after another going to the Far East and one wonders what will be left in Europe. It's really only the All-England now. I believe it will always be the major participation sport here but on a commercial level this is very bad news."

More than \$150,000 prize-money with a total sponsorship of about \$250,000 was made available for the Hong Kong event, and when a Danish bid for the world grand prix was turned through the IBF's hand was forced.

YACHTING



Far from ship-shaped but Bristol-fashoned: Tony Bullimore (right), the British yachtsman, with James Blackledge, marketing director of Apricot Computers, and the radical trimaran

Bullimore's change of tack

By Barry Pickthall

Two months after losing Apricot, his all-conquering trimaran, during last year's Route du Rhum, Tony Bullimore, the British yachtsman, has secured for a further two years the backing of Apricot Computers for a radical replacement now taking shape in Bristol.

The new 60ft craft, designed by Barry Noble and Martyn Smith specifically for next year's Carlsberg singlehanded transatlantic race and the return event from Quebec to St Malo, is costing over £300,000 and is due to be launched early next year.

Named Spirit of Apricot, the lightweight structured multihull is a departure from Bullimore's earlier Nigel Irens designed

craft, in which the former Yachtsman of the Year won the Round the Island and Round Britain events in 1985. Carrying a taller wing mast on a wider, more powerful hull, the trimaran — designed to be sailed like a catamaran — is hoped to be both lighter and faster than three rival Irens craft nearing completion in France.

The British-built boat will be one of the first multihulls to have three rudders, to maintain directional stability when "flying" the centre hull at up to 30 knots.

It is also the first joint project for Noble and Smith, but each has considerable experience in his own field. Smith, the chief

stress-man at British Aerospace, has been largely responsible for the structural integrity of all the Irens multihulls. Noble, a former authority on wing masts, designed and built the carbonfibre foil stepped on Apricot and has just completed a similar rig for Mike Birch's latest Irens trimaran.

The wing mast for the boat remains a secret but is believed to be larger both in height and chord than the 25-metre spar to be stepped on the Irens design. It is also planned to increase the overall beam — and thus the boat's sail carrying capabilities — beyond the 48ft span of the latest Irens, yet keep displacement below the 5.5 tons of their rivals.

TENNIS

Graf yet to decide over Brighton

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Steffi Graf, the champion of France and runner-up for the Wimbledon and United States titles, has yet to make up her mind whether to compete in the annual tournament at the Brighton Centre, from October 19 to 25. Last year Miss Graf won the singles — her first tournament success in Britain — and also shared the doubles title, with Helena Sukova.

There used to be an understanding that, whenever possible, players would return to any tournament they had won the previous year. Given today's congested fixtures list, the obligation has become slightly embarrassing, especially for such a player as Miss Graf, who wins almost everything in sight, is on the "wanted" list all over the world, and finds commitments expanding rather than contracting. To rewrite Oscar Wilde, success breeds excess.

Miss Graf has been beaten only twice all year and is ready for a break, particularly as she is shaking off a heavy cold and has also been having some dental problems. But she has been persuaded, understandably, to compete next week in a new event in her own country, at Hamburg. She must take a rest at some time, but the Brighton promoters remain optimistic because she holds the title and has not declined to defend it.

A strong cast has already been assembled, including three highly ranked players who have contested the singles finals of grand slam events: Pam Shriver, Miss Sukova and Sylvia Hanika. Other leading entrants are Zina Garrison, Gabriela

Sabatini (who, unusually, combines glamour with an exceptional level of achievement), the sisters Manuela and Katerina Maleeva, Bettina Bunge, and last year's runner-up, Catarina Lindqvist. Raffaella Reggi, who plays tennis with an exuberant intensity that suggests she regards it as a form of warfare, is also in the field. The emotional fires within Miss Reggi always burn brightly — and cast a warning glow around her.

In addition to the Graf question mark, the tournament temporarily lacks what is known as a "title" sponsor. It is expected that one will emerge in the next few weeks. This will be the first such promotion at the Brighton Centre. So far, there have been three different sponsors, which is about par for a nine-year course. Several companies are investing money in the tournament and 19 European countries will receive television coverage via cable or satellite.

Such events as this are rare opportunities to savour a concentrated demonstration of high quality women's tennis. One says "concentrated" because, with a draw of only 32 in singles and 16 in doubles, there is not much room for the third-rounders who populate 128-draw grand slam tournaments and the world team championship for the Federation Cup. On those occasions, too many one-sided matches advertise the deficiencies of women's tennis. That does not happen at Brighton. One merely wishes that the ambience of the comfortable, well-equipped Brighton Centre was less formal. Never mind. The tennis is good.

Wimbledon prices up

Court one tickets have also gone up by £1 in the first week and by £2 on the second Tuesday and Wednesday, when quarter-final matches in both the men's and women's singles are usually staged.

Admission to the ground is still only £5 for the first week but has risen from £4 to £5 in the second. After 5 p.m. it will cost spectators only £3.

Christopher Goringe, chief executive of the All England Club, said:

"We sincerely believe that £9 is exceptionally good value for a ticket that not only gives the spectator a seat on the centre court but also allows access to 17 other courts."

HOCKEY

Ealing's centenary celebrations

By Joyce Whitehead

Hockey was first recorded in England in Oxford University in the 1880s and three clubs were playing in 1887. One of them, Ealing Ladies Hockey Club, is still in existence today. On Sunday it launches its celebrations of 100 years of hockey with a day of old-fashioned fun at Sox's Reservoir near Hanger Hill Park, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

There will be crafts and antiques stalls by some shops from the Ealing precinct and a balloon race. Admission is free and there will be many prizes as

well as a hockey tournament. This will be played to the rules and in the costume of the Victorian era.

Ealing's uniform was a long, black skirt with woollen petticoat, dark blue long sleeved blouse and a navy sailor's beret with, of course, an English headed stick with a wide curve at the end.

In Sunday's tournament there will be four club teams, one of past members captained by Sheila Harding, formerly of England, and one of assorted Middlesex players captained by

Jackie Court, of the England women's cricket team. There will be two sections followed by finals.

Ealing Cricket Club has been Ealing's home for the last 38 years. They were the national indoor champions in 1985-86, are the holders of the national outdoor championship title and will be England's representatives in the European Club Championship in May in Barcelona.

At 2 p.m. the mayor will release 250 balloons and prizes, supplied by Ealing Sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Barclays League

Third division

Doncaster v Chesterfield

Fourth division

Crewe v Leyton Orient

Hullax v Tranmere

SUNDAY MORNING COMBINATION: Norwich v Reading

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BROTHERS CHAMPIONSHIP: See and division: Barnet v Sheffield

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: CWS Co-op Sports Invitation meeting at Thurrock Stadium, 7.0.

BOAT RACING: First division Worlds (at Portsmouth, Cornwall).

BOXING: Tournament: Stratton St Marston (Leamington, Warwick).

EQUESTRIANISM: National carriage driving championships (at Windsor): Taylor

Woodrow National dressage championships (at Goodwood).

GOLF: Women's Home Internationals (at Ashburton).

SNOWKERS: Longs Supreme Masters (at Gasgow); Rothmans tournament Preliminary rounds (at Bristol).

SQUASH: Rackets: Stockton open championships (6.0).

SWIMMING: European masters meeting (at Blackpool).

TABLE TENNIS: Leeds masters (at Wembley Conference Centre, London).

WATER SKIING: 42 World championships (at Thorpe Park, Chertsey).

SPORT ON TV

BASEBALL: Chicago Cubs v St Louis Cardinals, ITV, 4.55 a.m. (Tomorrow).

RACING: 3.35, 4.10 and 4.40 races from Ayr, G4, 5.30 p.m.

THE RUNDOWN: Programme: Champions: Profile of Ron Hill and Leslie Watson, two British runners who have each completed more than 100 marathons, ITV, 11.30 a.m.

